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POPPY APPEAL
Pages 20-21



FOSTERING STORY BOOK LAUNCHED



At a book launch in The Senedd are the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Clive James, Val Jones, Natalie Silcox, Carwyn Jones AM, Bernadette Guy and 'the sons and daughters'. SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 4

Man is jailed for smuggling cigarettes and fake watches

CROWN COURT REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A FORMER bankrupt who committed offences involving smuggled cigarettes and fake watches has been jailed for eight months at Cardiff Crown Court.

It was necessary, said Judge David Wynn Morgan, to impose condign punishments. "Not least because you have offended in this way in the past."

Ian Freeman (50) of Heol Maes-yr-Haf, Pencoe, admitted charges of dealing with goods with fraudulent intent and making unauthorised use of a trademark.

Prosecutor Carys Owen said that on January 8, officers of the Revenue and Customs saw two men in the North Road area of Bridgend, one of whom was Freeman.

They searched a van and found 25 boxes of cigarettes. Thirteen boxes contained cigarettes totalling £31,800 on which duty of £25,006 had not been paid.

Trading Standards officers were called in and discovered 235 fake watches with a fraudulent trademark of 'ICE'. All were seized by Trading Standard officers.

When arrested, Freeman exercised his right to remain silent, but he later

said he had been offered £200 for a unit he occupied to store the goods.

Said Miss Owen: "All this was professionally planned."

Freeman said he could not say how the cigarettes and watches came into his possession.

He was said to have a previous conviction for evading tobacco duty.

His barrister, Peter Woodall, said: "This is, of course, a serious case. Sadly, he is physically frail with diabetes and alcohol issues."

"His remorse is heartfelt, and he has brought shame to his family. It was not a sophisticated operation and he was acting as a warehouseman and gave way to temptation at a time of dire financial straits."

He said Freeman had been approached by another person whose identity he would not reveal because there would be "repercussions".

The judge said Freeman had been taken advantage of because of difficult circumstances and he had taken a course of action to shield others.

The offences, he added, had been compounded by his reluctance to reveal who the others were.

He was ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £100.

Police appeal after collision on M4

SOUTH Wales Police are investigating a serious road traffic collision which happened on the westbound on-slip of the M4 at 8.45pm at Sarn on Thursday, October 31.

There was one vehicle involved in the collision, a red coloured Mitsubishi Lancer, which left the road.

The 29-year-old male driver of this vehicle was conveyed to Princess of Wales Hospital where he was

being treated for serious injuries.

South Wales Police is appealing for any witnesses to contact them. Officers would like to speak to any person who witnessed the collision, or anyone who may have seen the vehicle being driven prior to the collision.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the South Wales Police Roads Policing Unit at on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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Council highlights the problem of dodgy used cars

DURING National Consumer Week (November 4-10), Bridgend County Borough Council's Trading Standards service is running a campaign to help steer local residents in the right direction when buying used vehicles.

Residents are being urged to 'check it out' when buying used cars and the Trading Standards service has a list of top tips that consumers should follow to avoid being stung:

- Check the vehicle's MoT certificate, which indicates if it is roadworthy.
- Check the vehicle's service history to see how well it has been maintained.
- Check the V5 registration document to make sure the car isn't stolen.
- Check if the car has been written off to give you an insight into its history.
- Check the vehicle's finance history

to make it doesn't have any outstanding finance.

- Do a test drive and a walk-around check to detect signs that the vehicle isn't what it seems.
- Get an engineer's check to identify the vehicle's condition and any hidden dangers.

- Check a price value guide to make sure you are paying a reasonable price.
- Check the car hasn't been recalled by the manufacturer for safety reasons.

Council Leader, Coun Mel Nott, said: "I would advise everyone to follow the Trading Standards service's simple steps when buying used cars to make sure there is a U-turn in the high number of buyers who are currently getting a bad deal."

If you have a problem with a second hand vehicle, you can get help from the Citizens Advice consumer service by calling 08454 04 05 06 or visiting www.adviceguide.org.uk.

Porthcawl Bridge results



THE club mixed pairs championship has been won by the recently formed partnership of Gwen Thomas and Alwyn Hill.

They easily triumphed over more established partnerships to win the Haworth Salver.

Other latest results are Saturday, October 19: First, Betty Longley and Roger Plant; second, Peter and Sandy Jenkins.

Monday, October 21: First, Betty Longley and Sue Anthony; second, Norma and Dave Newman.

Thursday, October 24: Club mixed pairs – First, Gwen Thomas and Alwyn Hill; second, Betty Longley and Roger

Plant.

Saturday, October 26: First, Roger Draper and Trish Saunders; second, Peter and Sandy Jenkins.

Monday, October 28: First, Maurice and Margaret Harris; second, Roger Plant and Terry Dolan.

Thursday, October 31: First, Trish Saunders and Sue Anthony; second, Emer Disley and Betty Longley.

The club meets three times a week – Saturday and Thursday at the Awel-y-Mor centre, and Monday at the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel from 7pm-10.15pm. Visitors welcome at any time.

To contact the club, call secretary, Trish, 01656785794. **TH**

Bridgend planning

Mrs Heather Mehrez – Angleton House off Bridgend Road, Pen-y-Fai – Remove lower epicormic growth, lateral reduction, crown lifting, coppicing to various trees.

Mr P Wetton – 64 Eleanor Close, Pencoeed – Remove overhanging branches and limbs and crown reduce by 35-40 per cent.

Mr Stephen Watkins – 109 Wood Green, Cefn Glas – Remove three ash trees.

Rage Fitness Limited – Unit 8 and 8A, Litchard Industrial Estate, Bridgend – Change of use from factory to gym.

Zero Carbon Futures – Welcome Break, Sarn Park Services, Sarn – Quick charge electric vehicle unit to be installed in the main car park (amended plans).

Mrs E Lepczynska – 25/25A Newcastle Hill, Bridgend – Change existing colour of front exterior wall and front door.

Mr W T Crole – 59 Rockfields, Nottage, Porthcawl – Extension to existing front dormer.

Mr Andrew Turpy – Bridgend Women's Aid, 4 Court Road, Bridgend – Convert former office building to dental practice.

Greenfields Development Ltd – Land rear of Darran House, High Street, Heol y Cyw, Bridgend – eight semi-

detached low cost dwellings.

Mr J Mitchell – 110 West Park Drive, Porthcawl – First floor extension, two storey and single storey rear extension.

Mr V Thomas – Land adjacent 20 Bradfield Avenue, Bridgend – New detached dwelling (outline application).

Mrs Ruth Bevan – The Cottages, 3 Maddocks Place, Bridgend – Paint exterior magnolia.

Mr M Rees – 19 Bryn Lliardard, Litchard – Demolish existing lean to and conservatory and erect single storey rear extension.

Mrs C Bailey – 19 Fford Haern/Iron Way, Tondau – First floor extension.

Mr Lee Elliott – 14 Wern Fawr, Pencoeed – Single storey rear extension.

Mr Paul Upton – Resurface existing car park area to a uniform block paving car parking area.

Mrs W L Maddock – 4 Waterhall Road, Kenfig Hill – Single storey side extension.

Bridgend Town Council – Public Library, Wyndham Street, Bridgend – First floor as council offices and chamber. Mixed use as a gallery.

Mr Matthew Bates – 33 Fulmar Road, Porthcawl – Ground floor extension to side.

'REFRESH' ON THE ROAD IN PENCOED...

THE popular Refresh service which has twice been hosted by Holy Cross Church is now on the road, with the next venue being Pencoeed this Saturday.

"St David's Church, Pencoeed, approached us and asked us if we could hold a service there, which we are delighted to do", said June Vandamme, one of the co-ordinators of Refresh.

The service is being held in the Church Hall which is behind St David's Church in Penprysg Road, Pencoeed CF35 6RH.

"The service will be this Saturday, November 9, as usual it starts at 6.30pm with tea and coffee and the service itself will begin at 7pm and will last about an hour.

"The theme of the service is 'Trees are known by their fruit' and will focus on the 'Fruit of the Spirit'.

"Everyone is very welcome to come and join us for this service of

contemporary worship, teaching, prayer ministry and creative prayer."

Refresh now has a website where more information about this and other events can be found: www.be-refreshed.com or you can telephone 01685375542 for more details.

From Pencoeed it looks as though the next venue for the service will be Bargoed.

But Cowbridge will remain very much a part of Refresh plans with two events currently planned.

'Amazing Journeys' is an evening presented by young people from Cowbridge Comprehensive school, combining inspiring stories and good food!

Tickets need to be booked and are available for just £15, which includes a two course meal at the Bear Hotel.

The evening is on November 13 but tickets really need to be booked by Friday, 8th. Ring Dale on 01446 771436, to see if you can be squeezed in.

Sue Freeland

Busy festive season ahead for Kenfig choir

RECENTLY, the Kenfig Hill & District Male Voice Choir entertained its loyal band of patrons and vice presidents in The Grove Golf Club.

For an hour before food was served, the choir performed from their extremely varied repertoire including the introduction of one new item. After the first five items, the choir made way for the two magnificent young voices of Rhian Hughes and Neil Parker, singing solo and together in duet, the choir returned to sing another five numbers to conclude the first part of the evening.

After all were suitably fed and watered, the evening's guest artist, Drew Martin, kept everyone laughing, singing and dancing with two hours of superb entertainment.

The choir is now busy preparing for its round of carol singing, because as well as singing in some wonderful venues throughout the year, it will be

singing carols in local retirement and nursing homes and the Princess of Wales Hospital in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Before the Christmas carols the choir will be staging an 'Autumn Evening of Song' in Cornelly Community Centre on Thursday, November 17. The Male Voice Choir will be joined by both of their junior choirs; Crescendo and Da Capo, tickets are only £5.

Tickets are available from members or call 01443 229227.

Hospital choir

THE corridors of Princess of Wales Hospital will soon be alive with the sound of music.

A new choir will launch in the hospital's chapel next Tuesday (November 12) between 1pm and 2.30pm. Called the Princess of Wales Choir, it has been started and funded by ABMU Arts in Health, in partnership with the Bridgend Carers Centre.

An invitation has gone out to patients, hospital staff and carers linked to the centre to come along and join in – even those who think they cannot sing. Choir leader Pauline Down has moved from north Wales where she has led three thriving community choirs, including one in Ysbyty Gwynedd.

Pauline said: "Songs will be taught by ear, including harmony songs from all over the world. The style of teaching will be fun and accessible to all.

"Singing on a regular basis in a group enables you to develop new skills, build confidence and enjoy the social aspect of making new friends and belonging to a singing community."

Local high school's fundraising helps give hunger the boot

PUPILS at Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School in Bridgend have raised almost £2,500 for charity – thanks to an intensive week of fundraising.

Half of this total will go to 'Give Hunger the Boot', a fundraising appeal for the UK charity Farm Africa, which is working with smallholder farmers across eastern Africa to help end hunger for good. The other half will go to CAFOD.

To help 'Give Hunger the Boot', all the pupils aged between 11 and 18, as well as many of the teaching and support staff, took part in a jam-packed week of welly boot inspired fun.

Activities included the Great Welsh Bake Off, a design a boot competition, an 'Ode to a Welly' poetry competition, a teachers versus pupils welly dodgeball tournament, a 'boot-tucker' trial, a daily 'Where's the Welly' competition and even 'boot-loose' line dancing.

If that wasn't enough, 130 year-7 pupils also took part in a 'Welly Walk', completing two miles each towards Farm Africa's 'Great African Welly Walk'. The number of 'welly miles' walked by the school will be added to the grand total of miles walked by all participating schools and churches across the UK.

Last year, the total number of miles walked was equivalent to a mass 'Welly Walk' all the way to a Farm Africa project in Ethiopia and back. This year Farm Africa is hoping to go even further by walking all the way to one of their projects in Kenya. And back!

Responding to the extraordinary fundraising efforts of his pupils, headteacher Rev Dr Philip Manghan said: "Every autumn, around the time of harvest, the school organises events and activities to support those who each day face severe

hunger and thirst.

"It is a time for us to thank God for what we have been given and to be challenged about what we can do for those who have nothing. We always support the work of the Catholic agency, CAFOD, and this year we took a special interest in Farm Africa, because of its emphasis on development not aid.

"In lessons, and special assemblies led by students, our young people were introduced to the work of Farm Africa and CAFOD. This year's fund-raising and awareness-raising activities

focused on the slogan, 'Give hunger the boot' and featured a wide range of activities, including welly walks, welly line dancing, design a welly, welly poetry and finding welly.

"It was great fun and a successful way of raising both a substantial sum of money and the awareness of students, both for the needs of others and how we can help.

"I am very grateful to head of religious education, Joanne Pearson, and all the staff and students for the success of this event. llongyfarchiadau pawb!"

Hallowe'en – ghostly fun for families

FAMILIES living near Betws Primary School were able to make a 'flying start' to their Hallowe'en festivities by going to a special party that was organised by Bridgend County Borough Council's Flying Start team.

The Hallowe'en party featured ghostly goings-on such as fancy dress, games, arts and crafts, as well as songs, rhymes and sensory play.

Coun Huw David, BCBC cabinet member for children and young People, said: "We are very lucky in Flying Start to have proactive and enthusiastic staff who organise fun events such as these. The language and play officers provide interactive sessions that give families lots of ideas that they can then use at home to help support their children's development."

The Flying Start programme is the Welsh Government's flagship

initiative for eligible families living in certain areas who have children aged under four-years-old, and regular Flying Start language and play sessions take place every Tuesday at Betws Primary School between 1.30pm and 2.30pm.

Flying Start focuses on four key elements – free quality childcare, parenting support, intensive health visitor support and support for early literacy.

The Welsh Government recently announced additional funding and the scheme has recently expanded in Bridgend county borough in the following areas: Maesteg West, Oakwood Estate, identified areas in Cefn Glas and the Brackla Meadows and Waunscoil Avenue area of Brackla.

In 2014-15, further expansion of the programme will mean that families and children in areas of Blackmill, Lewistown and Sarn will also benefit from Flying Start.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL NOVEMBER 14)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time		Ht	
	AM	M	PM	M
07 Thur	08.38	9.9	21.01	9.7
08 Fri	09.24	9.6	21.51	9.2
09 Sat	10.13	9.1	22.41	8.7
10 Sun	11.20	8.7	23.49	8.3
11 Mon			12.29	8.4
12 Tues	01.11	8.2	13.48	8.5
13 Wed	02.31	8.3	14.59	8.8
14 Thur	03.34	8.7	15.55	9.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

Rugby player gets his last chance after alcohol-fueled attack in club

A PORTHCAWL RFC player who, when drunk, attacked a member of the club's committee, has walked free from Cardiff Crown Court.

Daniel Shore, a 30-year-old labourer, was told by Recorder Ian Murphy QC: "Your qualities have saved you."

Shore, of Ewenny Close, Porthcawl, had admitted causing David Long actual bodily harm.

He was jailed for six months, the sentence suspended for two years, and made subject to a two-year supervision order.

He was also directed to carry out 150 hours unpaid work and to pay a victim surcharge of £80.

Said the Recorder: "If

by AJ SICLUNA

you let alcohol get the better of you again, there will be consequences."

Prosecutor Ian Kolvin said that on August 31, there was a social event at the rugby club. Shore was a regular member and was well-known and liked.

He became intoxicated and when asked to leave, he refused. Without any provocation, he headbutted Mr Long to the jaw area and punched another man.

He was held in a bear hug and taken to the exit, but he was again unwilling to leave and threw a punch to Mr Long's face which knocked him to the floor unconscious.

After being arrested, he could not explain why the incident occurred.

Mr Long, the court heard, had not wished to pursue the case against Shore.

Shore was said to have convictions for causing actual bodily harm, one of which involved attacking a man he believed had stolen his bicycle.

His counsel, Owen Williams, said: "He realises he is at risk of losing his liberty. Every time he commits an offence, it is because he has lost his temper."

"These failings need to be addressed. He is truly remorseful because at the time, he was getting his life in order."

Mr Williams said he had drunk far too much alcohol following an away game in Neath.

Shore, he said, was welcome to return to the club to play and coach and he deserved a last chance.

Successful competition for young farmers



David Rees and David Evans.

BRIDGEND YFC recently competed in the annual stockjudging competition.

This year it was hosted by Gelligaer YFC on three farms judging beef, lambs, dairy and pigs. With the quality of stock high, it was a difficult competition this year for our members but they all gave 100 per cent.

Bridgend had numerous placings in the different categories, with everyone doing so well, and came second overall on the day, with David Rees receiving best junior stockman and David Evans receiving best senior stockman.

Well done to everyone who competed and a big thank you to everyone who helped organise the day, including all stewards and judges.

BE

LOCAL RNLI'S LOTTERY WIN!

VOLUNTEER crew members at Porthcawl lifeboat station are set to benefit from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) winning £10,000 through a public vote.

The competition – entitled the Vote that Counts – was run by the People's Postcode Trust, a charity funded solely by money raised by players of the People's Postcode Lottery.

The RNLI came second in the competition, receiving almost 15,000 votes and winning £10,000.

This prize money will be divided equally between eight lifeboat

stations selected by the RNLI. It will go towards providing lifesaving kit for the charity's volunteer crew members.

Phil Missen, lifeboat operations manager at Porthcawl, said: "We are absolutely delighted to receive this money."

"We will receive £1,250 here at Porthcawl which will go towards replacing worn-out kit for our volunteer crew members. Our kit helps to keep us safe, often in treacherous conditions."

Protective helmets alone cost £194 and thermal gloves £10. Lifejackets, dry suits, waterproof jackets, inflatable kneepads and steel-plated wellies are all crucial in the sea conditions RNLI crews launch in.

Twinning group hosts floral demonstration

AT the next meeting of Pencoed Twinning Association, there will be a floral arrangement demonstration by Anne Rose who has had a long career in the flower industry and has exhibited at the Chelsea Flower Show with both Interflora and the Townswomen's Guild.

Anne is a member of NAFAS and the Flower Guild of Lincoln Cathedral. This will be a high quality demonstration and all demonstration items will be raffled at the end of the evening.

The event will be held at the Pencoed Miners' Welfare Hall, on Wednesday November 27; doors open at 7pm, start 7.30pm.

Tickets are £5 per person to include one raffle ticket. Demand is expected to be high so booking ASAP is advised. Further information and tickets are available from Wendy McDonald on 01656 865633 or email: eric.mcdonald012@btinternet.com.

AM is concerned at local council's plans for Welsh language education

SHADOW Welsh language Minister Suzy Davies has accused Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) of being "behind the curve" in providing children with access to Welsh medium education.

Mrs Davies, who is a Welsh Conservative Regional AM for South Wales West, had asked BCBC what steps it was taking to ensure that it was in a position to cater for the increasing demand for Welsh medium education.

She went on: "The School Standards Act imposed a duty on all local authorities to assess demand and prepare statutory plans for the provision of Welsh medium education by 2014. BCBC is leaving it pretty late to get it act together."

"While it has told me that it is currently meeting all the demand and is now carrying out a survey of likely future demand, I have heard from parents that this is not the case."

"No new Welsh language primary schools have been built to serve Bridgend town in the past 20 years. Some existing Welsh medium primary schools in other parts of the borough are bursting at the seams and are too small to offer extra curricular activities such as breakfast clubs."

"Families looking for the benefits of a Welsh medium education for their children often feel they have no option but to send their children to English medium schools instead because the buildings are modern, more convenient and can offer more services."

"BCBC is way behind the curve on Welsh medium education, particularly for communities around the town of Bridgend."

"These are communities which have grown rapidly in recent years and their access to Welsh medium has been routinely neglected."

"The growth in the number of Welsh speakers has been taking place in parts of Wales which are not traditionally Welsh speaking. While it is a matter of choice which language families prefer, many agree that bilingual skills are attractive to employers."

"Apart from depriving children of a richer cultural identity, BCBC's disregard for Welsh medium education deprives them of an economic advantage as well."

"The fact that it also ditched its Menter Iaith for Bridgend is a pretty good indication of how slow this council is in keeping up with the times."

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "There are sufficient Welsh medium places at our primary and secondary schools to accommodate the current demand within Bridgend county borough, and plans are also well advanced to meet anticipated demand in the future."

"Across the county borough, there is a surplus of places in Welsh medium primary schools and this is projected to be the case until 2017."

"However, there is currently more demand for places in the two schools in the southern half of the county borough than the two in the north. At both Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw and Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cynwyd Sant there are places available if parents choose for their children to be taught through the medium of Welsh."

"Plans are under way to help improve the capacity at the two schools in the south of the county borough. An additional 60 places will shortly be created at Ysgol Bro Ogwr, while an extra 30 places will be available at Ysgol yr Ferch O'r Sger from spring 2014."

"Looking further ahead, a proposal has been made to build a brand new Welsh medium primary school to replace Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw, and consultation starts this month. By relocating the school further down the Garw Valley, this will also help to ease some of the demand for places at Ysgol Bro Ogwr."

"Ysgol Gyfun Llangynwyd was opened in 2009 to provide secondary education through the medium of Welsh in Bridgend County Borough for the first time. That was a significant investment and indicates, along with the aim to build a new school for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw, the council's commitment to growing and improving Welsh medium education."

Coun David added: "Two of the four BCBC Welsh medium primary schools have breakfast clubs. This service is offered regularly to all schools and has a high take-up. Transport reasons are cited to explain why two schools have not chosen to take advantage of this facility."

The Lime Tree Way chicken mystery!

AN incident where two chickens were left scared and abandoned in a cardboard box on a street in Porthcawl has left the RSPCA bemused.

The two chickens were found in the box outside a house in Lime Tree Way, Porthcawl, on Hallowe'en. The box had been painted and was tied up like a present, lights had been attached and air holes had been cut out. Inside the box were two chickens, some straw and chicken feed.

Inspector Gemma Cooper said: "How these chickens ended up in this box is a complete mystery. The box would have taken sometime to design, so obviously a lot of effort has gone into this prank."

"I'm appealing for information about how



ABOVE: Marjorie and Peggy are now safe and sound after a being left in a box.

these chickens ended up here and for anyone who may be missing these birds to get in touch."

"Although the chickens were not injured they were extremely scared. I am all for Hallowe'en fun, but not when it puts animal welfare at risk."

The chickens have

been named Marjorie and Peggy and are currently in the care of the RSPCA.

Anyone with information, or who recognises these birds, is asked to contact the inspector's information line on 0300 123 8018. All calls will be treated in confidence.

Ivy celebrates her 104th birthday



"Happy birthday Ivy!"

104-year-old Ivy Davies from Sarn being wished a very happy birthday by the Mayor and Mayoress of Bridgend County Borough.

AS Wales kick off their autumn international series this Saturday, they will be cheered on by one special fan who has seen more of the ups and downs of Welsh rugby than most.

Ivy Davies, from Sarn near Bridgend, has just celebrated her 104th birthday, and will be watching the big match on TV this weekend.

Ivy's love of rugby was probably always meant to be, as she was even born in a 'Grand Slam' year.

Although the sport would have been quite different in 1909, it was another very successful year for the Welsh team.

To help celebrate her 104th birthday, Ivy was paid a visit by the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Clive James, and the Mayoress, Coun Pauline James.

They called into her home to present her with flowers and find out

about her love of rugby, and the Mayor said: "It was great to meet Ivy, one of Bridgend county borough's centenarians. We enjoyed a good chat and also found out about her family, which includes seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She is extremely proud of her family, just as they are of her."

Ivy received a letter from the Queen in 2009 to commemorate her 100th birthday, and another congratulatory message will arrive through the letter box from Her Majesty to mark Ivy's 105th birthday next year.

Ivy's daughter Gillian Moystyn said: "The Mayor and Mayoress presented my mother with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and talked to her for quite a while. She has always enjoyed watching rugby and when she turned 100 she met the Welsh rugby team and was given tickets to watch them play the All Blacks."

"She will certainly be cheering them on this weekend!"

Spooky Hallowe'en night in Nottage



THE Porthcawl Paranormal Team's Hallowe'en ghost talk and walk was a fantastic success.

The turnout was excellent, with most of the adults and children dressed up in spine-chilling costumes. Following a Hayley Williams talk about the history of Nottage, Tracey Walmsley then guided everyone on an eerie walk, where a few unexpected surprises appeared down the dark and spooky Moor Lane.

Special thanks go to Sarah Watkins, Becky Wood and Annette, who made the whole experience complete.

Thank you to all who attended our spooktacular experience, and to those who returned to the Swan Inn for a newly-introduced buffet.

HW

Meet the Bridgend Dragons...

THE Bridgend Business Forum is looking for individuals who are willing to step forward to pitch their business ideas to a panel of experts in a 'Dragon's Den-style' event on Thursday, November 21.

The forum, which is supported by Bridgend County Borough Council, has teamed up with Cherryblue Training Ltd and Business in Focus, along with number of other business support organisations to host a special event to coincide with Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) 2013, the theme of which is 'take a step forward'.

Send your proposal to business@bridgend.gov.uk and a shortlist will be drawn up. The best proposals will be invited to carry out a three-minute pitch to experts on the day. Prizes will include free mentoring sessions from the experts on the panel.

The event will take place at the Heronston Hotel, Ewenny Road, Bridgend on Thursday, November 21, 9am-12.30pm.

Chris Howlett from Business in Focus, said: "This is a great opportunity for any budding entrepreneurs to showcase their talents and ideas, which could potentially lead to immediate, local recognition."

For more information on the event, contact Mary Pope on 01656 815320 or email: business@bridgend.gov.uk

IT'S BEEN A BUSY TERM AT ST CLARE'S SCHOOL!



IT'S been a busy half term at St Clare's School in Porthcawl. Here a spokeswoman gives a roundup of what's been happening in both prep school and the senior school.

Our reception class have been studying the topic of 'changes'. The children have learned to identify human change from birth to adulthood and see what happens as we grow. They also looked at animals that change, studying the life-cycles of a tadpole and butterfly!

Mrs Vanderbrink's class have been keeping in touch with their Welsh roots by studying the life of Laura Ashley, the Welsh fashion designer. Children have been able to see how clothes change over time.

The girls in the class found it very amusing



Geography field trip at the River Ogmore.

putting big floral Laura Ashley dresses on that date back to the 1960s!

Meanwhile, year-3 visited the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff and spent time looking around the 'Evolution of Wales' exhibition. The pupils completed an activity booklet as they travelled through time from The

Big Bang to the end of the Ice Age.

The children loved learning about dinosaurs and finding out that they had even walked through Porthcawl!

Pupils from the senior school have also been out and about in our school minibus. Year-11 geography students went on a fieldtrip to Margam

Fieldstudies Centre for their controlled assessment in September.

The class went to the River Ogmore, tracing it from its source in Craig Ogwr down to its mouth at Ogmore by Sea. The pupils took measurements of the river, made sketches and collected flood data of the area.

Despite the torrential rain, the group worked incredibly well and spirits were high, if more than a little damp!

Pupils studying GCSE business studies went to Waitrose in Cowbridge to conduct some market research and learn about the various nationwide marketing campaigns Wite company uses.

Senior school girls were treated to a once in a lifetime experience when they competed in a netball tournament against other schools, including the Australian International School!

The girls won several

of their matches and thoroughly enjoyed the day out to the tournament in Chilton Cantelo School in Somerset.

Our PTA, The Friends of St Clare's, recently organised a Beetle Drive for pupils, parents and staff. The Hallowe'en-inspired event was tremendous fun and everybody enjoyed designing their own Beetles and going away with spooky party bags.

The senior school rugby team is looking forward to playing in the Cognita Schools Rugby Tournament in Northampton at the end of November.

The boys have been training hard for weeks and we wish them the best of luck.

St Clare's School is opening its doors to the public for an open morning on Friday November 22. For more information, or to book a place, telephone admissions on (01656) 789966.

Miners' memorial to open later this month

PYLE Community Council has announced that work is almost complete on redevelopment of the land opposite Heathbridge Surgery in the centre of Kenfig Hill, and the official opening will take place on Tuesday, November 26, at 2pm.

The new development is to be known as Heathbridge Miners' Square and will be dedicated to those who worked and died in the many mines in the area, mines which were the creation of much of Kenfig Hill as we know it today.

It is hoped the event will be attended by many of the men who worked in these mines.

The Heathbridge Miners' Square is a Pyle Community Council project, with additional funding from Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), Marks & Spencer Community Grant and the Awards for All, National Lottery Fund.

A spokesman said: "Pyle Community Council is grateful to BCBC, Marks & Spencer and the National Lottery Fund and would also like to thank Mr David Brace, OBE, for donating a coal drum which he acquired and refurbished."

"This development is the first of many projects which Pyle Community Council has in its five year plan, projects including the recent replacement of the old bus shelter on the A48 Pyle Road with a shelter more appropriate for part of the community."

Harold J Phillips, Clerk, Pyle Community Council

Story book launched at Senedd

A STORY book which was created with help from the sons and daughters of Bridgend County Borough Council's foster carers has been launched in the Senedd.

"Dylan's Story - what's it like to be a son or daughter of a foster carer?", is aimed at encouraging foster carers to talk to their sons and daughters about the challenges that may lie ahead as they prepare to share their home and family with other children.

The launch was part of the Fostering Network's annual "Sons and Daughters" campaign, which takes place every October to celebrate the contribution which the children of foster carers make to foster care.

Sons and daughters who had contributed to the book by sharing their stories and experiences were treated to a tour of the Senedd and presented with a certificate and voucher.

The First Minister Carwyn Jones, said: "I'm

delighted to offer my support to the sons and daughters of foster carers' campaign. 'Dylan's Story' is highly informative and will prove a valuable tool in stimulating discussions around the kinds of issues that may be faced by the children of foster carers in Wales. It is also a useful reminder that fostering involves the whole family, rather than just the parents."

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "We are very proud of our sons and daughters. We owe it to these children and young people to give them recognition, listen to what they have to say and support them for the valuable role they play in a foster family."

The event was also attended by the Mayor of Bridgend, Coun Clive James.

For more information on fostering, contact Bridgend Foster Care on 01656 642674 or visit www.bridgend.gov.uk/fofostering.

COMMUNITIES GET BOOST OF £150,000

EDUCATION initiatives, play facilities and child care projects in the poorest communities in Wales are set to benefit from thousands of pounds of funding through a new £3 million Welsh Government fund.

The 'Tackling Poverty Small Grants Fund' will also go towards events to promote healthy living and training for people to find jobs. Bridgend is to receive an initial £150,000.

The money will be used in Communities First clusters that cover

the top 10 per cent most deprived areas in Wales. The three clusters in Bridgend will receive £50,000 each and will be able to apply for further funding from the scheme.

Making the announcement, communities and tackling poverty minister, Jeff Cuthbert, said: "This new funding is about making a real difference to communities who need it the most. From providing child care to those in training to supporting education for those looking for work, this money will help improve thousands of people's lives."

If you have a drink problem... THEN SUPPORT AND HELP IS AT HAND

EXCESSIVE drinking can wreak havoc in the lives of people and the negative effects are manifested in anti-social behaviour, family breakdown, crime and ill-health.

As Alcohol Awareness Week approaches (November 18 to 24) one national organisation is keen to let people know that if they are having a problem with drinking, help is at hand.

Martyn (53) a spokesman for Alcoholics Anonymous, told THE GEM the organisation wanted people to know there were local groups ready to help people with a problem.

He knows about the negative side of alcohol abuse because he is in recovery himself. He started drinking at a young age and in his words "arrived at adolescence with a great immaturity".

Martyn explained: "I had little money so I became a petty thief, taking anything I could sell to get money to buy drink."

"I loved drinking in the company of other people and the image I had of myself was of me gliding across the dance floor of the

by TIM CHAPMAN

down-town discos!

"I took no responsibility for my attitude or behaviour at all, but spent most of my time trying to convince others I was perfectly normal, which was what I wanted to be."

"Alcoholism is a progressive, selfish illness and those closest to me got the worst damage."

"I gradually became ill. My mental health started to suffer and I became isolated and paranoid."

"I got worse as I drank more. My nervous system suffered. In the end I was virtually alone."

"I had lost my career, my family and my home. I lived with a friend, an addict, who had been released from the local lockup ward, and who I left for dead for two and a half days after I found him over-dosed."

The Christmas and New Year period was particularly difficult for Martyn because of society's drinking culture.

ROCK BOTTOM
But during one festive season in the early 1990s, he had a change of heart.

"It was Christmas time in 1993 and I was

still in deep denial, with no joy at all in my life. I suddenly sat upright and had what can only be described as a moment of clarity."

"I had reached what 'AA' calls rock bottom, a point which I was not prepared to go beyond."

"I broke into my own house - I wasn't supposed to go there - and used the phone to ring Alcoholics Anonymous."

"I took my last drink at 4.15 am on Tuesday, January 4, 1994."

For Martyn, the run-up to Christmas is a time of emotional importance as he approaches the anniversary of the day he kicked his drink problem.

"By maintaining my sobriety with AA I have become the person I was meant to be, and the father I was supposed to be."

"I have learned in sobriety to relax and let my hair down. I am grateful that AA has shown me how to live my life and to be content enough with it to be able to live without alcohol or any other mood altering chemicals."

LOCAL GROUPS
For people struggling

with addiction to alcohol there are local Alcoholics Anonymous groups who are keen to help.

In Barry, there's a meeting every Wednesday at St David's Church, Colcot Road (8pm). In Penarth, there's a meeting at Albert Road Methodist Church on Sundays at 8pm.

An AA spokeswoman said: "We also have a free open event at Albert Road Methodist Church on Sunday, December 1."

"People are welcome to come if they have a personal or professional concern about alcoholism."

"We will have four speakers - three at various stages of recovery, six months, 10 years and 20 years, and someone from our sister group Al-Anon, which helps the families and spouses of alcoholics."

The doors open at 7.30 pm; from 8pm to 9.30pm the speakers will talk, followed by a buffet, refreshments and a chance for a chat.

To find out where you can get help from a group in your area, go to: www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk/; or call the AA National Helpline on 0845 769 7555.



LITCHARD CHURCH IS BURGLED ONCE AGAIN

POLICE in Bridgend are investigating a number of burglaries at a church in the Litchard area.

The Litchard Mission Church on Litchard Terrace has been broken into on two occasions recently.

The first happened some time between noon on Monday, October 21 and 9.15am the following morning. The church was broken into again overnight between Sunday and Monday, October 27-28.

On both occasions, access was forced into the church via a side

door. Among the items which have been stolen are an X-Box and eight games, a quantity of cash, and sweets.

Police are appealing for any information with regard to these thefts and want to hear from anyone who may have seen anything suspicious in the area of the church during the times in question.

Anyone with information which may assist the police in their investigation should Bridgend police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 and quote reference 6213032704.

Students step out on the West End

YOUNG performers from Stagecoach Theatre schools in Bridgend and Cowbridge (above) took to the stage at one of London's most prestigious venues, Her Majesty's Theatre, recently as part of an international musical celebration.

The students, aged between 10 and 17, joined 260 other Stagecoach students.

Stagecoach principal, Helene Reynolds said: "It was completely thrilling to see our fantastic students from Wales performing on such a world-famous stage. And they certainly wowed the audience with a wonderful medley of song and dance from the Billy Joel musical Movin' Out."

"This isn't the first time our Stagecoach students have taken to the West End stage! In fact for a few of them this was their fourth performance at this great theatre."

The performers were Eve Bangwan, Matthew Bartlett, Oliver Bartlett, Llewelyn Brown, Robyn Edwards, Edward Franks-Herbert, Gareth Harfoot, Catherine Harrison, Alyx James, Tom Johnson, Jessica Lamin, Ffion Morgan, Maddison-Rose Thomas, Sam Walter, Anna Webster and Elinor Williams.

The choreographer was Jaye Lawrence and vocal coach Dave Winterbottom. For details about Stagecoach Theatre Arts, contact Helene and Rob Reynolds on 01446 772727 or visit www.stagecoach.co.uk.

NIGHT AT THE TALBOT IS A HUGE SUCCESS!

ON Saturday October 26, PCSOs Kyle Maiden and I organised a 'Remember the 40s' fundraising night at The Talbot Community Centre.

The Talbot Community Centre is

run and managed by a team of volunteers, providing service and support to members of the public.

It links in with partnership agencies such as mental health, it also holds a luncheon club, computer classes, fitness classes and enables volunteers to hold PACT meetings, helping us

build links with the community.

The community centre is charity based, therefore none of these services would be available if it wasn't for generous donations from the community.

We believe the community centre is a vital part of our community and wanted to help raise

some money to allow the centre to keep operating.

All 75 tickets were sold out within days of going on sale and a great night was had by all.

There was a two-course meal, bingo, raffle, and an Ospreys signed rugby ball, which was auctioned.

Live entertainment was provided by the fantastic Linda Knight and her band, who were outstanding, a great combination of comedy and talent.

In total, £975 was raised on the night, a massive thanks to all who helped make this night possible.

If anyone wishes to make any further contributions then please go and see Cheryl at the community centre.

PCSO Nerys Lloyd

Sudden death of group's chairman

THE Kenfig Hill branch of Shout, the group that represents the interests of older people, has announced the sudden death of its chairman, Mr Stan Rumble.

The group has asked that any future telephone queries relating to Shout in Kenfig Hill should be made to Lynne Bunston on 01656 746085.

NEWS FROM ST BRIDES

THIS year's Remembrance Day service on November 10 in St Bridget's Church, St Brides, is at the earlier time of 10.50am.

Since 1921, the nation has come together to remember the sacrifice that British and Commonwealth men made, not just for the Great War but for World War Two and all subsequent wars and conflicts.

Now 90 years on, the Royal British Legion is still helping service men and woman and their families, so please give generously for your poppy.

Produce market

THERE will be a produce market on the second Saturday of the month with photograph seascapes of Ogmores

by-Sea and Southerndown, pure silk hand-dyed gifts for Christmas, free range eggs, bric-a-brac in aid of funds for Cubs and Scouts, flowers from the local flower shop, home cooking cakes and preserves.

Come and support the market and enjoy a chat and a cup of tea. Christmas is not far away!

THE community council held a meeting on October 14. Many objections were made against the wind turbine at St Brides Court (Tyn y Caecu) following a previous refusal. The council resolved to stand by their original comments.

Please contact christi na.davison 123@btinternet.net.com if you have relevant news.

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ADHD group Looks Sharp for their spooky Hallowe'en



ABOVE: ADHD Bridgend outside Look Sharp Barbers; back row: Debbie Yardley, Pyle Coun Luke Ellis, Tylon Mafis, Sam Lawrence, ADHD Bridgend vice chair Zoe Piper and ADHD Angel Leanne Llewellyn.

LOCAL support group ADHD Bridgend raised some smiles and cash for their cause as they took to the streets of Bridgend to share awareness of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, dressed in Hallowe'en themed costumes.

The Look Sharp hairdresser and barber shop in Wyndham Street threw open its doors for the group, raising over £300 with scary face painting, glitter tattoos and in-store fundraising, arranged by hairdresser and stylist Debbie Yardley and rugby player and barber Tylon Mafis.

ADHD Bridgend vice chair Zoe Piper said: "We are really grateful to Debbie, Tylon and the Look Sharp customers, as well as the good people of Bridgend for their generosity."

"During half term, we arranged a brilliant trip to The Big Pit for our families and siblings, and the money raised from our Hallowe'en event has covered the costs of the outing which was so much enjoyed by families we support."

Debbie added: "Seeing Tylon dressed up was such a laugh and everyone really entered into the spooky spirit to raise money for ADHD Bridgend."

"Knowing how important it is for families to be able to get

together, free from the misconceptions that people sometimes have about ADHD, is really powerful and I have been proud to fundraise for such a special and worthwhile charity."

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder is a condition that both children and adults live with, and recent European Brain Council reports suggest as many as one in twenty people could have the condition, although in the UK many remain undiagnosed.

ADHD Bridgend helps families and adults from Bridgend with on and offline support group services, peers to peer support and guidance and advice for people living with ADHD.

RIGHT: The 1st Kenfig Hill Guides.



Praise for Laura after she gains top Guiding award



Laura receives her award.

LAURA Underhill of 1st Kenfig Hill Guides recently gained her Baden Powell award, the highest award that can be achieved as a Guide.

The award shows a great commitment and enthusiasm to Guiding, as it takes over a year to complete.

To obtain the badge, Laura had to complete 10 challenges, which involved supporting global awareness, healthy lifestyles, dis-

covering new things, celebrating diversity and developing skills and relationships.

She also had to attend a Baden Powell adventure weekend in Broneirion, mid-Wales, where she faced new and exciting challenges and experiences.

Laura, aged 15 years and a pupil at Cynffig Comprehensive School, said: "I really enjoyed finding more about the world and liked seeing the girls relax and have fun when I took over for the evening."

evening was held to honour Laura's achievement at Kenfig Hill Scout and Guide Hall, where she was presented with her award by the Leader of 1st Kenfig Hill Guides, Sarah Maddern.

She said: "1st Kenfig Hill Guides would like to say a big thank you to the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Clive James; Mayoress Coun Pauline James; the County Commissioner for Girl Guiding Central Glamorgan Wendy Hinton; the chair of Pyle Community Council, Coun Michael Kearn,

Youth Mayor Katherine Jones; and fellow councillors of Pyle Community Council for joining them in their celebrations. A big thank you also goes to all the Guides who so brilliantly provided the evening entertainment."

"1st Kenfig Hill Guide Leaders would also like to say a huge congratulation to Laura Underhill, who is a fantastic role model for the younger Guides who may also aspire to achieve this award in the future - well done Laura!"

COWBRIDGE BOOK FESTIVAL AUTUMN SERIES ROUND-UP

THE Cowbridge Book Festival's Autumn Series got off to a flying start with an absolutely fabulous 'Girls' Night Out' with Jo Carnegie at the Quarter Penny Café.

The irreverent Jo regaled her audience with hilarious tales of life in the fictional Beeversham, the setting for her new book Party Games (rumoured to be based on Cowbridge).

Natalie Isaacs and her team provided a delicious supper and 'the girls' also had the chance to try some beauty treatments provided by Karma Beauty.

From Beeversham, to a fascinating evening spent discussing 50 Years of Doctor Who.

Chris Barry of Comic Guru chaired a lively debate between two leading Doctor Who authorities, the highly acclaimed science fiction writer Alastair Reynolds, whose thrilling new Doctor Who adventure Harvest of Time has just been published, and Andy Frankham-Allen, the author of Companions: Fifty Years of Doctor Who Assistants.

The audience was impressed with the enthusiasm and in-depth knowledge of the writers and very keen to participate in the discussion.

Best-selling author Ben Kane delighted his audience by arriving dressed in full Roman uniform wielding his sword and shield.

Ben talked about his book

Hannibal - Fields of Blood, describing Hannibal's march on Rome.

He also described his own charity march on Hadrian's Wall wearing full military uniform, no mean feat this, as the shield alone weighs a stone.

Ben is not only a highly articulate speaker, it was also noted by one member of an appreciative audience that he had the best pair of legs ever to appear at the Cowbridge Book Festival!

Following Ben Kane was not going to be easy but the increasingly popular Crime Forum did not disappoint.

A former spy, Chris Morgan Jones (The Jackal's Share), a former criminal barrister, MR Hall (The Chosen Dead), and a former lawyer, William Ryan (The Twelfth Department), talked very frankly about their previous careers and what inspired them to take up full time writing.

The audience quickly became engaged in the discussion and participated in a very lively Q & A session.

These three highly acclaimed crime authors were also happy to meet and chat with members of the audience over a glass of wine after the event.

A change in tempo was provided by BBC Radio 2's much loved gardener Terry Walton who entertained his fans with humorous anecdotes about life on the allotment and the many interesting characters to be found in his book

The Allotment Almanac.

He soon established a great rapport with his audience and offered plenty of technical help and practical tips not only for the garden but for life in general.

The final event for the Autumn Series was spent in the company of the delightful food writer and stylist Genevieve Taylor.

Arriving with a very tasty flamiche (a cross between a pizza and a quiche), for the audience to sample, Genevieve quickly set about demonstrating how easy it is to make lemon curd.

A very appreciative audience got to taste the finished product spread on warm home made scones, and the rest was poured into jars for storage.

Genevieve's infectious passion for food captivated the audience, she soon had them eating out of her hand, quite literally, and many were inspired to buy her very handy book A Good Egg.

Visitors to the festival have been treated to interesting and enthusiastic presentations and lively debates covering a variety of genres and they also have the satisfaction of knowing that all proceeds from these events will be donated to The Noah's Ark Appeal, Children's Hospital of Wales and Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research.

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ROUND WALES WALK FINISHES WITH A WELCOME IN THE BAY

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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AS we reported in last week's GEM, the Walk on Wales charity walk passed through the borough before finishing on Saturday with great ceremony at Cardiff Bay, outside The Senedd.

Finishing at the forefront of the massive charity walk around Wales was Alison Elson from Pencoed.

Her stepson Dane Elson was killed in Afghanistan in July 2009, and since then she has worked tirelessly to raise money for Service charities.

Her husband Stuart joined her on a number of days, work permitting, but Alison completed every leg of the walk, for a grand total of 870 miles.

The Walk on Wales raised money for the Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal and Combat Stress, and was a relay around the entire 870-mile coastline of Wales, carrying a silver baton, with the names of the 50 Welsh Guardsmen, killed in action since World War Two engraved on it.

Each day was dedicated to one of the fallen Welsh Guards and a drum head service was conducted each day before the walkers started off, remembering that particular hero.

Three other walkers – all former Welsh Guards, Jan Koops, Rod Morgan, and Chris Hopkins – matched Alison in covering the entire 870 miles.

Last Thursday (October 31) the walk was from Dunraven Bay to Aberthaw, passing through Llantwit Major.

On the Friday, it went through Barry Island before ending the day in Swanbridge.

On the final day, the walkers were met by the band of the Welsh Guards at Cardiff barrage, and the band led the walkers to the Senedd in Cardiff Bay, where a huge crowd was waiting.

For that last stretch, they were led by Major John Thorneloe, the father of Welsh Guards commander Lt Col Rupert Thorneloe, who was killed in Helmand in 2009.

Col Thorneloe was the officer-in-command of the Welsh Guards when they were stationed at MoD St Athan.

The walkers were met by huge crowds in Cardiff Bay.



ABOVE: The silver baton, with the names of 50 Welsh Guardsmen who had been killed in action, was carried around Wales.



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Rogue trader in Bridgend area

SOUTH Wales Police has received reports from resi-

dents in Bridgend and Brackla of a rogue trader knocking on doors and asking for payment for clearing the guttering on their property.

A police spokesman said: "This work has not been undertaken. Please do not make any payment and report the incident by calling 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

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ABOVE: Alison Elson of Pencoed walked all 870 miles around Wales.

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LOCAL DRAMA GROUP TACKLES DISNEY CLASSIC 'BEAUTY AND THE BEAST'

PHOTOGRAPHS by MALCOLM NUGENT



A LARGE cast of young actors recently performed *Beauty and the Beast*, in a Performance House production, directed by Nicky Taliesin.

The show was performed at the brand new super school, Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen, over three nights from October 30 to November 1 to sell out audiences.

This production featured the 'Midis' and in February 2014 the seniors will be performing *The Wedding Singer* at Maesteg Town Hall. The juniors are scheduled to perform *The Wizard of Oz* in April.

For more information, contact theperformancehouse@hotmail.co.uk.



Welsh athlete is charity's new ambassador

RHYS WILLIAMS, the European champion and London 2012 Olympian over 400m hurdles, has become the newest patron of World Child Cancer.

Welshman Rhys, son of international rugby player JJ Williams, is one of the UK's established talents and is currently in pre-season training.

With a busy training schedule and very little spare time, Rhys has said he is still willing to help

build awareness and generate support for World Child Cancer.

He spoke with passion about the charity's work: "Every child deserves a chance in life, the chance to live a healthy and happy life. World Child Cancer is doing everything to help children all around the world with cancer."

"I am very proud to be associated with such a charity. If you could help in any way, I would ask you to do so."

No to tax raising powers for Wales SAYS GEM READER

WITH regard to the Coalition Government's announcement that Wales could be handed some forms of tax raising powers in the future, depending on a referendum, I would urge a resounding 'NO' to voters.

Council tax is essentially already a devolved tax raiser and the track record of that is atrocious. Sometimes, it is better the devil you know.

Mr C Fitzgerald, Llantwit Major.

Council makes progress on underage smoking

THE number of underage smokers and drinkers in Bridgend county borough is on the decline, a survey has revealed.

Bridgend County Borough Council's survey of almost 1,300 year-9 pupils from within the county borough found that 7.8 per cent of respondents smoke cigarettes occasionally or regularly, marking a continued improvement from the same survey held in 2007 (24.9 per cent) and 2011 (11.3 per cent).

The proportion of respondents who drink regularly also declined from 6 per cent in 2011 to 4.1 per cent this year.

The survey also found that 73 per cent of young people in the county borough consider themselves to be either healthy or very healthy, with children more likely to consider themselves to be healthy or very healthy if they have family members who exercise regularly.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "Reducing smoking

and alcohol consumption, especially among young people, forms a key part of our corporate plan. I welcome the news that the figures have significantly improved since 2011, but there is clearly still a lot of work required to make the fig-

ures satisfactory.

"It's no surprise that children are more likely to feel healthy if they live within an active household. Young people look to their parents, carers and families as key role models, so through setting a healthy example,

families can help their children to be healthy too."

To find out more about initiatives to help a child be more active, contact the Active Young People Department on 01656 815216 or email aypd@bridgend.gov.uk.

Support for employees

BRIDGEND County Borough Council (BCBC) has reaffirmed its support for council workers who are also victims of domestic abuse.

The authority has updated its 'Domestic Abuse Protocol' setting out what actions it will take to support employees who are experiencing physical, emotional, sexual, psychological or financial abuse from partners or family members.

Coun Phil White, cabinet member for communities, said: "Research shows that 75 per cent of people experiencing domestic abuse are targeted at work. As an employer, the council has a responsibility to make sure that members of staff are working in a safe, supportive environment, and this updated protocol will help us to achieve this."

"As well as supporting council employees who are victims of domestic abuse, we're also determined to take strong action against employees who are perpetrators of domestic

abuse. The council encourages staff to highlight any concerns about this type of behaviour, which is totally unacceptable and will not be condoned."

The protocol also provides employees with information about how and where they can receive advice, help, support and counselling.

Kathryn Fox, Bridgend Women's Aid's Support in the Community coordinator, said: "This is excellent news. By updating its domestic abuse protocol, Bridgend County Borough Council is reinforcing our firm message that domestic abuse will not be tolerated in Bridgend county borough."

"We'd like to thank the council's Equalities team for attending our recent open day, and look forward to continuing to raise awareness about domestic abuse issues in the county borough."

For more information about the support available from Bridgend Women's Aid, call (01656) 766139.



AM'S ANGER OVER POSTPONED PoW HOSPITAL OPERATIONS

NEARLY 1,000 patients being treated by the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg health board, which includes Bridgend and part of the Vale, had their operations postponed in the first six months of this year because there were not enough beds at local hospitals.

Regional Tory AM Byron Davies said that the board has told him that 2,867 operations at the region's four main hospitals, including the Princess of Wales, were cancelled from January to June this year, and 972 of these were caused by a lack of beds – either on wards, High Dependency Units or Intensive Care Units.

Mr Davies put in a Freedom of

Information request to the board after doctors contacted him to say that the shortage of beds was causing postponements in surgery.

He said: "Medical staff are very frustrated by a lack of beds which means that elective surgery has to be put off time and again when the available beds fill up with unexpected emergency cases."

"These figures were released at the same time as further research by Welsh Conservatives at the Welsh Assembly has revealed that the number of hospital beds in Wales has been cut by 20 per cent over the past 10 years by the Welsh Labour Government."

"So much for the NHS being safe in Labour's hands," said Mr Davies. "We now have almost 3,000 fewer beds than a decade ago despite increasing demand

from an ageing population.

"This is leading to dangerously high levels of bed occupancy – the highest for more than 10 years – as staff and bed managers run around trying to find empty beds to meet demand. We literally have patients being sent home to make way for others needing their beds."

"How on earth can we expect to control the spread of hospital acquired infections like C.diff, norovirus and MRSA when staff do not have time to deep clean between patients?"

Mr Davies said that beds have been cut and cut again because of other cuts – those added to the Welsh NHS budget.

He added: "Labour's cuts, which were on course to hit £800m over three years have caused untold damage to the health service. The true impact of their reckless

actions has not even started to be felt but cancelled operations are one predictable outcome.

"Of course, we will never know how many people die because their operation has been cancelled – it would appear that nobody collects those figures."

"It is time for the Minister to step in and order health boards to retain their current bed levels – and even then the number is inadequate to cope with rising demand."

"We need more beds across Wales – the lack of beds is one of the factors leading to the carnage in our A&E departments and to ambulances queuing outside with patients on board. This in turn has a knock on effect on ambulance response times. The bottom line is that we need more beds."

An ABM spokesperson said: "ABM Health Board carries out on average 44,000 operations per year. Unfortunately, we sometimes have to postpone non-urgent pre-planned operations due to an emergency patient needing urgent unplanned care."

"We appreciate this can be upsetting for patients and reschedule operations as soon as possible."

"This year we are investing approximately £5.5m in our unplanned care services including: increasing hospital bed capacity, providing additional support for patients at home before and after a hospital admission, ensuring the length of time a patient is in hospital is appropriate; plus increased availability of some diagnostic tests and services at weekends."

Exciting proposals for former Maesteg industrial estate

EXCITING proposals for the redevelopment of the former Ewenny Road Industrial Estate in Maesteg have been announced by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC).

An outline planning application for the whole site has been made, which would see the site redeveloped to include hot food restaurants, a family pub, food retail units, non-food retail units, approximately 125

homes and a mix of different size employment units.

The proposals have been submitted by the site's new owners Pontardawe Coal and Metals Company Ltd – a wholly-owned subsidiary of Clowes Developments (UK) Limited – in partnership with the council, who own part of the land.

Subject to planning consent being granted, it is hoped that work will start on site early next year to provide the infrastructure to allow the proposed development to take place.

Coun Mel Nott, Leader of BCBC, said: "As the industrial estate was closed a few years ago, this redevelopment has been long-awaited in the local community."

"It is extremely exciting to have reached this stage and the proposed redevelopment will see a mix of uses on the site."

"The plans also include a riverside park and footpath which will provide a missing link to the on-going aim of creating a continuous footpath alongside the river Llynfi."

"This announcement comes only a few weeks after the opening of the new market square in Maesteg, marking another significant step forward in the regeneration of the town."

Full details about the planning application, including an overall masterplan of the proposals, can be seen on display in the window of unit 14 in the new Maesteg market.

The plans can also be viewed online at www.bridgend.gov.uk. If anyone has any questions or comments, email planning@bridgend.gov.uk or call 01656 643155.

Time to have your say on schools' reorganisation

BRIDGEND County Borough Council (BCBC) is set to consult with parents, teachers, governors and pupils in the south Garw Valley area over the latest phase of its school modernisation programme.

Under the proposals, Betws and Tynyrheol Primary Schools would merge, relocating to a new facility to be built on the Betws Primary site.

In order to provide greater balance in Welsh-medium primary school places between the north and south of the county borough, the proposals would relocate Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw from Pontycymer to a separate facility at the Betws Primary site in 2017.

The council estimates that fully repairing and maintaining the existing school buildings would cost more than £1.3m, without delivering any improvements.

Funding for the new schools would be provided by BCBC, in partnership with the Welsh Government through the 21st Century Schools Programme.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "While all three primary schools provide a very good education for local children, the current buildings and facilities are in poor condition and were not designed to accommodate learning in the 21st century, especially as there is limited access for disabled children at two of the schools, due to the age and location of the buildings."

"As well as delivering state of the art facilities, under the proposals both the new school and Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw would also gain access to enhanced outdoor space and playing fields."

"While the proposals incorporate a merger between Betws and Tynyrheol primaries in 2014, in reality the pupils would remain in their

current school buildings until the relocation to a new facility on the Betws Primary site is complete, in 2016.

"Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw's move would also relieve pressure on Welsh-medium places at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr in Bridgend, which is near-

ing full capacity."

"The first stage of the process will involve organising consultation with staff, parents, pupils and governing bodies, as we'd like to see these plans come to fruition in time for the start of the new school term in September 2014."

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AGE CONCERN FREE ADVICE

AGE Concern will hold a free information and advice event on Thursday, November 14, from 10am to 2pm at the Paget Rooms, Victoria Road, Penarth.

Information on offer will include: local Age Concern services available; free foot care health checks and reflexology; mobility and food delivery specialists; local solicitors regarding reduced rates on Will writing; information on other legal matters, such as lasting powers of attorney (LPAs); local financial advisors; pre-paid funeral plans from Golden Charter, and equity release specialists, Bower Retirement Services.

Call Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan on 029 2068 3604 to find out more or go along on the day.

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NFU members meet Police Commissioner

A DELEGATION from Glamorgan NFU Cymru county branch recently met Alun Michael, the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales, and highlighted the impact crimes such as fly grazing, fly tipping and theft

have on rural communities.

The delegation stressed the need for all parties to work in partnership in order to prevent fly grazing in the area.

Andrew Edwards, NFU Cymru Glamorgan County Chairman said: "NFU Cymru has welcomed the legislation which has been drafted to tackle fly grazing and the

abandonment of horses and ponies in Wales, which has been laid before the National Assembly for Wales by the Welsh Government."

NFU Cymru has successfully worked in partnership with Welsh Government, local authorities, police forces and the RSPCA to try and develop legislation to tackle fly grazing that will empower local authorities to take action against the small minority of horse owners who choose to act irresponsibly.

Mr Edwards continued: "Unfortunately, some farmers in Glamorgan have been victims of fly grazing and it is absolutely vital now that there is a uniform approach and commitment from all local authorities and police throughout the county of Glamorgan, and the rest of Wales, to tackle this problem."

Mr Edwards concluded: "This was a useful opportunity to meet and discuss our concerns directly with Mr Michael. During the meeting, we also stressed the importance of local police officers keeping the rural community up to date with thefts and incidents, and we hope to see an improvement in the level of communication between local officers and farmers in the future."

Top award for MIND volunteer



Award winner Gillian Morgan is honoured by the Vale of Glamorgan Mayor and the Vale AM, for her skills and service to Mind in the Vale.

CARDIFF and Vale College recently awarded Gillian Morgan the 'Community Learner of the Year' award at a ceremony on the stage of the Wales Millennium Centre.

The Vale of Glamorgan Mayor, Cou Margaret Wilkinson and Vale AM Jane Hutt visited Gillian Morgan in the MIND in the Vale Travellers Café in Barry Station, where she has been a volunteer for five years, to congratulate her on the award.

Gillian gained her QCF Hospitality Level 1 Award for her services at the Mind in the Vale Cafe, which also runs a successful catering service.

Ty Hafan rollover reaches £10,500

TY HAFAN'S Crackerjackpot Lottery has reached a massive £10,500 for the second time this year because the rollover prize has not been won for the past 21 weeks.

It could reach a maximum of £12,000 where it will become a guaranteed prize.

By becoming a member of Crackerjackpot for £1 a week, supporters have the chance to win big prizes which could fund a dream holiday, a new car and or maybe some improvements.

John Mladenovic, Ty Hafan's Lottery general manager, said: "Winning £10,500 could make a real difference to someone's life and we hope it

will attract more local people to support us by playing the lottery.

"As well as being in with a chance of winning big cash prizes, every member of Crackerjackpot makes a real difference to hundreds of life-limited children, young people and their families from across Wales supported by Ty Hafan. Crackerjackpot provides a vital source of reliable income for Ty Hafan, raising around a third of the total amount needed every year."

Back in 1998, the hospice began its own lottery and since that time it has paid out more than £1.5 million to lucky winners from all over Wales who have chosen to support Ty Hafan in this way.

DON'T FALL FOR BOGUS 'GREEN DEAL ASSESSORS'

SOUTH Wales residents are being urged to be on their guard with cold callers who claim to be 'Green Deal assessors'.

It follows reports from across Wales of people being 'ripped off' on their doorsteps by bogus Green Deal assessors.

In some cases, homeowners have paid as much as £200 to cold callers who have taken their money and disappeared.

Ken Yorston of Trading Standards said: "Some companies have clearly seen the Green Deal as an opportunity to conduct their shady practices in a government approved arena and Trading Standards will be taking action against any such business found to be misleading consumers or not complying fully with their statutory obligations."

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RHOOSE IS READY TO REMEMBER... Parade will honour those in past and current conflicts

IAM pleased to advise everyone that the Rhose Remembrance Day Parade and Service will take place on Sunday, November 10 with the service taking place at the Rhose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhose.

It is hoped that the usual local organisations and individuals will support the parade and service and that they will bear their standards with pride.

Serving and retired Servicemen are particularly welcome and as always we will have seats reserved at the front

of the hall.

It would be helpful if all the individuals and organisations would make the usual arrangements to muster in Wesley Avenue by no later than 10.30am so the parade can march off promptly at 10.40am.

Those who do not wish to join the parade can go straight to the community hall.

As well as remembering those who fought and fell in the two World Wars we will also remember that there are brave young men and women serving this country in Afghanistan and in other conflicts and peacekeeping missions around the world.

In 1943, just 70 years ago, this

country was still in grave danger of running out of key supplies owing to the U Boat activity in the North Atlantic resulting in the loss of many Royal Navy and Merchant Navy seamen.

The RAF was taking the fight to the enemy and also attacking the U Boat bases but with significant losses.

Our Eighth Army was making good progress and captured Tripoli in January and then in September they landed in Italy.

Guy Gibson led the brave attack by RAF Lancaster bombers from 617 Squadron on the dams in the Ruhr Valley on May 16 - 17.

In recognition of such bravery past

and present it would be most appropriate, therefore, for us to have good turnout in the parade and at the service.

I am pleased to advise that the Reverend Melanie Prince will be leading the service with representatives of other denominations offering prayers.

The Women's Institute (Rhosse Branch) has kindly offered to provide some light refreshments to all those attending at the end of the service.

For any further information please contact me at home on 01446 710690.

Coun Jeffrey James,
Remembrance Day Organiser

Memorial evening helps Marie Curie charity



LEFT:
Mrs
Barbara
Perkins.

RECENTLY, an evening's entertainment in memory of Mrs Barbara Perkins was held at Cottrell Park Golf Club.

The evening included an auction, which was very well supported by guests, friends and family members alike. All of the items were snapped up. The rest of the evening was enjoyed by all on the dance floor.

A total of £7,530 was raised and the family of Mrs Perkins would like to say a big thank you to the kind people who donated the auction pieces and to those who bid for them.

Also, thank you to the friends and family members who helped run the event and to Anthony who organised it.

The fund raised were donated to the Marie Curie Hospice.

GARETH PERKINS

'Great Gatsby' on screen in Dinas Powys



THE next showing at the Murchfield Hall Community Cinema is the 2013 film adaptation of The Great Gatsby.

The film starts in 1929 when Nick Carraway is asked to write about what turned him into an alcoholic and the circumstances leading to his depression.

Nick tells of his experiences with the flamboyant millionaire Jay Gatsby and the lavish lifestyle and opulent parties that ultimately led to madness and tragedy.

Bring your own champagne, wine or cocktails and join us for this magnificent film experience.

A free glass of peach bellini for everyone from our champagne fountain and delicious mocktails from the bar.

Saturday, November 9 at the Murchfield Community Centre, Dinas Powys.

Tickets are £4 in advance and £5 on the door available from both Post Offices in the village and DPVC office at the Community Centre.

Doors open 7pm.

JA

'Heroes' team heads for its £20,000 target



ABOVE: The team in Brize Norton just before the beginning of the ride to the Vale.

THE GEM recently told the story of four RAF Servicemen who were part of a Help for Heroes charity ride from Oxfordshire to the Vale of Glamorgan.

They have other events planned and their aim is to raise £20,000.

For Barry Serviceman, Joe McCann, a team member, returning to south Wales was particularly emotional.

He managed to take his colleagues to the Arms Park and show them a photograph of his late father who played rugby for Cardiff RFC.

Joe has been in touch with The GEM to say: "I'd just like to say thank The GEM on behalf of the Help for Heroes riding team for the support you have given us over the past month or so.

"It's been hugely appreciated. We're at £9,000 now and closing in on the £20,000 target.

"I'll keep GEM readers informed of how we're getting on with fundraising over the next few weeks."

To make donations, go to: virginmoneygiving.com/joemccann

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

HOLY Trinity Presbyterian Church, Barry is holding a Christmas Fayre on November 16 at 10.30am.

Stalls include cake, jewellery, bric-a-brac etc and a raffle. Admission is £1 to include tea/coffee. Entrance at the junction of Abersystwyth Crec/Trinity Street.



Joe (second right) pointing out his father on a photo at Cardiff RFC.

Cadoxton WI's charity event

ON Oct 22 Cadoxton (Barry) WI held a charity coffee morning courtesy of the Vale Mayor Coun Margaret Wilkinson.

The morning was well attended and people went home with lots of goodies from the various stalls.

The charity was in aid of Cadoxton Primary Nurture Project.

After, the president of the WI thanked the mayor and her colleagues for the help given, enabling the branch to have a successful event.

The headmistress from Cadoxton Primary Mrs Janet Haywood said a few words about the ongoing project, and gave thanks to the WI. The event raised £353 which will be passed on to the School.

Councillors' surgery

THE Labour Vale of Glamorgan and Barry town councillors for Castleland Ward, Chris Elmore, Pamela Drake, Les Sword and Karl Kuhnell will be holding their regular monthly advice surgery on Saturday November 9 in the Drop In Centre, Castleland Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry, from 10.30am until 12pm.

No appointment is necessary. Anyone needing advice but unable to attend can telephone Chris Elmore on 01446 450 007 or 07867 506 116.

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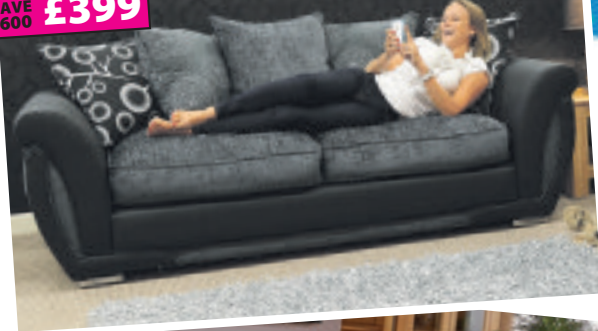
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Regional AM joins Welsh Guards' walk



Andrew RT Davies AM and Jane Hutt AM before the event with day sponsors Arqiva and other walkers.

REGIONAL AM, Andrew RT Davies, has taken part in a relay around the Welsh coast to raise money for service veterans.

He walked from Southerndown to Nash Point, alongside veterans and supporters of the Welsh Guards.

He said: "I was extremely proud to have taken part in such a

fitting tribute to the Welsh Guards and to have helped to raise money for service veterans.

"To have the opportunity to join the team for a leg of the journey was a wonderful experience and I thoroughly enjoyed talking to some of the amazingly fit and dedicated people who managed to do the entire journey and hear some of their stories!

"The Welsh Guards are an

inspiration to us all and this was a great way to get the whole country involved and show our appreciation for veterans.

"Obviously I know the Vale coast extremely well as a local resident and farmer but this was a challenging walk for all involved given the wet and windy conditions!"

Beguiling Beagles hunting for Beagle-friendly homes!

DOGS Trust Bridgend is appealing to local dog lovers to help find loving homes for three beguiling Beagles.

The trio - Ralphie, Tonka and Bindy - are hunting for energetic owners who will enjoy training these clever dogs and give them the time they need to help them settle in.

The charity has found that Beagles are one of the most sought-after breeds - the number of enquiries has increased tenfold at the Bridgend rehoming centre in the past year.

Beagles may become the latest 'must-have' because of their appealing looks and new owners are often unprepared and ill-equipped to cope with the specific requirements of this energetic and sometimes mischievous breed.

"Many end up in rescue centres, although with the right training, these intelligent dogs can make loving and entertaining pets," says Beverly Price, Dogs Trust Bridgend, Rehoming Centre manager.

"Beagles are super cute little dogs which make very appealing pets. However, people need to remember that they are hounds, they love being outside chasing scents and are highly intelligent and very energetic dogs and need regular exercise. They need the correct socialization and proper training.

"They can be escape artists due to their very keen sense of smell and can pick up the faintest trace of the scent of food and pursue it. However, their love of food helps with training and in the right homes with owners who have time to dedi-

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre (Telephone: 01656 725219)



Tonka, Ralphie and Bindy.

cate to their training and keeping them entertained they can make fantastic pets.

"Over the last few months alone, we have taken in 10 Beagles. Some have been handed in because their owners did not appreciate the demands of such energetic dogs. We have also seen a large increase in the number of Beagles attending our training classes.

"Beagles are really fun, affectionate dogs which make such rewarding pets in homes

where owners understand their breed, give them plenty of exercise and allow them to be Beagles."

If you can give a Beagle suitable home please call Dogs Trust Bridgend on 01656 725 219 or visit www.dogstrust.org.uk.

Tonka

TONKA is a one year old Beagle who loves to be part of the action. An energetic pup, he is always outdoors exploring and enjoys munching on his favourite meaty treats. This busy boy

could happily live with other dogs.

Bindy

BINDY the Beagle is eight years old and is good with children and happy in the company of other dogs, this bright girl would make a loving companion for an energetic family.

Ralphie

RALPHIE is a one year old Beagle who is always active so would need lots of exercise and stimulation to keep him busy. A sociable pup, he has lots of doggy friends.

Samantha was in the frame for top apprentice

A YOUNG female plumber from Bridgend was a finalist in a competition to name Wales' best building services engineering apprentice.

Samantha Allen (26) who works for Bridgend-based Andrew Allen Gas and Plumbing Ltd, was a finalist in the JTL Welsh Apprentice of the Year Awards, which recognise excellence in building services engineering apprentices. She was nominated for the award for her achievements during her appren-



Samantha Allen.

ticeship, which finished in May of this year.

Samantha said: "This is a great way of ending my final year as an apprentice, and I hope

other girls will see this as proof of what can be achieved by taking up this sort of apprenticeship."

JTL Chairman Dr Ian Livsey said: "Samantha is a great example of the talent being developed in Wales, and I have no doubt she has an excellent career ahead of her. She has always had great feedback from her tutors and training officers, and is playing a key part in our Apprentice Ambassador Initiative - helping us to encourage young women into careers in building services engineering."

Llanilltud Primary School celebrates Diwali



PUPILS at Llanilltud Fawr primary school recently celebrated Diwali, the Hindu festival of light. As you can see from the pictures here, a wonderful time was had by all, especially the Indian dancing with Mrs Booker!



Two local women are jailed for street attack

TWO women who robbed a drinker shortly after she left a pub in Bridgend have each been jailed for three years at Cardiff Crown Court.

Judith Harle suffered injuries which included

a broken thumb, bruising and grazes.

Sara Baldwin (33) of Maes-yr-Heol, Brynmenyn, and Kirsty Hodgson (23) of Bryn Morfa, Bridgend, each admitted a charge of robbery.

Judge Eleri Rees told the pair: "Nothing excuses what happened that night."

by AJ SICLUNA

The victim, she said, must have suffered a "truly frightening experience".

Prosecutor John Probert said that on the night of May 5, Ms Harle and the two defendants were drinking in the Star pub in Bridgend.

Ms Harle had had a relationship in the past with Baldwin's ex-partner and Baldwin called Ms Harle a "slag and a slut".

About midnight, Ms Harle left the pub to walk home, feeling uncomfortable at the situation.

The two defendants rushed after her, leaving their drinks behind.

In Mackworth Street, said Mr Probert, they ran towards her and Hodgson pulled her hair and punched her. She was dragged to the ground and her handbag was taken from her.

She was kicked and curled up into a ball.

Hodgson told her:

"You got what you deserved, you bitch."

Judith Harle returned to the town centre and reported the matter to the police.

In addition to the bruising and grazing and broken thumb, she also had swellings and bit the end of her tongue.

The pair were arrested in the early hours of the morning in the same pub.

Baldwin said: "I haven't robbed any b***, you'll never prove it."

The bag was found in undergrowth near Hodgson's home address and £33 in cash had been taken.

Baldwin claimed that earlier the victim had given her "stinking looks". Hodgson also denied being involved.

Mr Probert said: "Clearly, Ms Harle was targeted."

In a victim impact statement, she said she suffered a lot of pain, was not sleeping, suffered stress, and had to be off work.

She also said she felt "really angry" and wanted

ed the pair to pay for what they had done to her.

Baldwin had convictions for public order offences and assault, and Hodgson had convictions for a public order offence, causing damage and battery.

Adam Sharpe for Baldwin said: "The offence was entirely out of character. She had been in custody since October 4 but has reflected on her behaviour."

"It was an assault which spiralled out of control."

"In the past she had suffered depression, has been sectioned and self-harmed. She has had a troubled life and there is remorse."

He said that in August, she was attacked and suffered fractures to her jaw.

Stephen Thomas for Hodgson said: "She fully admits her part in a joint offence. When they left the pub, they did not intend to commit a robbery and it all occurred on the spur of the moment."

"It must be acknowledged there was kicking and significant force. The robbery was inexcusable."

The judge said there was clearly hostility towards the victim.

Each defendant was ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £120.

AM's surgery

DAVID MELDING, Conservative AM for the South Wales Central region, will be holding an advice surgery on Friday, November 15 at 29 High Street, Barry, between 10am and 12pm. No appointment is necessary.

PENDOYLAN'S ENTREPRENEURS

PUPILS in Pendoylan Church in Wales Primary School recently held their first 'Enterprise Week'.

The children were tasked with designing and producing products to sell at a school Farmer's Market.

To begin with, the pupils conducted some market research to find out what their parents and friends would want to buy, and how much they'd be willing to spend.

To help the pupils get started, the school invited a local businessman, Mr Howells, to give a presentation on how to launch a new product.

The children used his excellent advice to help them choose suitable products to make and sell. The budding CEOs even calculated their expected profits and designed their own packaging!

On trading day, with the year-6 pupils manning the stalls, business was brisk and the products sold quickly. By the end of the morning the



Young entrepreneurs at work.

pupils had made over £600 profit; Sir Alan Sugar would have been proud!

DJ

AM congratulates young volunteers



VALE AM, Jane Hutt, attended the Vale Volunteer Bureau's AGM last week at Barry Memorial Hall, to congratulate the bureau and present awards to young volunteers.

She said: "I was delighted to attend the Vale Volunteer Bureau's AGM and to present young volunteers with their Millennium

Volunteering Certificates - what a wonderful contribution they have made!"

Left to right - Peter Chapman, treasurer; Alison Steere, director; Jane Hutt AM and Jim Fitzgibbon, chair.

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Museum remembers our troops

OUR Armed Forces serving in hot spots around the world is the theme of the latest exhibit at the Barry Island-based Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre.

Featuring a 'soldier' dressed in desert uniform worn in action in Afghanistan, the display aims to remind visitors of the dangers faced by our troops 'over there'.

Barry at War spokesman Ade Pitman said: "Our display aims to remind visitors that our troops are currently serving our country on peace keeping duties around the world."

"As an ex-serviceman myself, I believe that it is important to remember the sacrifices being made by our Armed Forces, not just at this time of year when we buy a poppy, but every day."

"The title of our exhibit reflects the changing location of 'over there': be this Iraq during the Gulf Wars or now Afghanistan. For my mother, 'over there' was Egypt during the Suez crisis of the 1950s, so who knows where 'over there' will be 10 years from now?"

"Using funds raised at the Wartime Weekend community event last summer, we have been able to buy a suitable mannequin and build a generic desert dwelling

that could be equally at home in Iraq, Afghanistan or Syria. The uniform was donated by the son of one of our volunteers, who wore it on one of his tours of duty in Afghanistan."

"We would very much like readers to help us improve the impact of our display, by donating photographs of their loved ones 'over there'."

"We don't need the originals, as these can either be emailed to us or we can scan the originals. For security reasons photographs should simply have the name of the serving member and a goodwill message to them on it."

"Our tiny museum seeks to show the personal side of warfare, and how it touches the lives of the people at home. Photos can be emailed to us at our email enquiries@barry-atwar.info or dropped off at the museum."

The Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre is located at the Barry Tourist Railway Station, Barry Island, and is open every Wednesday afternoon, 2pm until 4pm. The museum will also be open on Sunday, November 24, when it celebrates its first anniversary.

For more details call Ade Pitman on 07930 874161 or see the website www.wartimeglam.org.uk.

Royal Albert Hall duties for local MGSs

MEMBERS of the Ministry of Defence Guard Service (MGS), based at MoD St Athan, will be taking part in the annual Service of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall this coming Saturday, November 9.

The two representatives from St Athan are Civilian Security Officers, Mrs Jean White from Barry and Mr Kenneth Kirkham from Pencoed.

They were invited to take part in the National Act of Remembrance and be the first MGS

personnel to walk down the steps of the Royal Albert Hall.

MoD St Athan Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Rob Balls said: "I know that both Mrs White and Mr Kirkham were overwhelmed to be selected as the first MGS personnel to attend the Royal Albert Hall. They will be joining the nation as we remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country."

Service and civilian personnel from MoD St Athan will join local communities across south Wales this Sunday as they take part in services to remember the fallen.

Out and About with The GEM

Marvel's latest big blockbuster lacking in story and villainy

MANY hundreds of millions of dollars later, it seems hard to believe that the release of *Thor* in 2011 was considered a gamble, given his lack of high-profile.

Fast-forward to 2013 and his second outing, following a successful appearance in *Avengers Assemble*, is one that comes with much anticipation.

In *Thor: The Dark World*, the lead character (Chris Hemsworth) returns to Asgard only to find it war-torn, threatened by an evil so great that Thor cannot battle it alone.

In order to battle the dark elves and their

leader Malekith (Christopher Eccleston), Thor must turn to his less-than-trustworthy brother Loki (Tom Hiddleston), a decision that could mean dangerous times for our hero...

While Marvel Studios have shown a knack for making money and delivering thrills, the one thing they are reasonably untested in is sequels.

While their characters' first outings have been wildly successful, the only character to have reached sequel status is *Iron Man*, and the second episode of that, albeit undemandingly entertaining, was let down by a dull storyline and an unengaging villain.

A similar charge can be levelled at *Thor: The Dark World* which simi-

larly makes for an entertaining and enjoyable viewing experience, but one soured by a story that doesn't pull you in and a villain who is bland and reasonably unthreatening.

What made the first film so entertaining was the ability to marry the dramatic with a sense of humour, the 'fish-out-of-water' concept allied to an almost Shakespearean family drama.

What the sequel does is dial down the former (although there are some laughs to be had) and instead focus on Thor battling a race of people intent on making him and Asgard pay for the sins of his grandfather.

It is a mix that doesn't quite work, mainly due to the fact that the main driving force of the story, a mystical 'aether' that grants those in charge of it immense power, is a flimsy hook on which to hang a story.

Similarly, Christopher Eccleston's Malekith is a villain with a grudge but lacking in character and personality. With the actor hiding behind prosthetics, there are little or no facial actions to convey the character's motivations; instead we merely have threats which have been recycled from any number of past villains which don't work half as well as a little more substance would have done.

While these are points to be critical

about, there are also things to savour about the film. Chris Hemsworth is becoming a more accomplished and assured actor with every performance, and while this film won't overly stretch him, he still conveys the weight of a man born to lead but who would rather fight.

Tom Hiddleston is again the film's ace in the hole, giving Loki the snide, devious and calculating aura that works so well, while Natalie Portman finds herself underused and Anthony Hopkins delivers a performance that feels even so slightly phoned in.

Game of Thrones director Alan Taylor brings a sheen of realism to the world of Asgard, his more grounded direction perfectly suitable for a film that follows the traditional sequel path of going a bit darker, while the set-pieces, though heavy on CGI, have a scope and ambition that, coupled with a dollop of derring-do, give a thrilling air to proceedings.

While something of a wasted opportunity, *Thor: The Dark World* still delivers enough to satisfy; it's just a shame that it's saddled with a weak story and poor villain. However, the Marvel is enough to carry it through.

VERDICT: Another case of sequel-itis from Marvel factor, *Thor: The Dark World* is a notch below their top



by **GARETH JAMIESON**
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

work but still makes for an entertaining viewing experience. While the film's story leaves something to be desired, and has a villain that fails to send chills down your spine, the sense of spectacle and some decent performances from Chris Hemsworth and Tom Hiddleston make it worth watching. Enjoyable.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Thor* (2011), *Star Wars* (1977).

Race night at Bonvilston
A RACE night is being held at Bonvilston Reading Room on Friday, November 15, with a sausage and mash supper at 7pm, and racing starting at 7.45pm.

Tickets are £6 which includes supper. For more information call 01446 781686.

Breaking down barriers

AS part of the *Siaradwn Ni - Let's Talk Big Lottery-funded programme, Yellow Wales in Maesteg* is holding extra a free-of-charge accredited two-day listening skills course at Yellow Wales from 9am - 3pm on November 15 and 18; January 27 and 31 2014, February 10 and 14, 24 and 28, and March 3 and 7.

The *Siaradwn Ni - Let's Talk* programme is co-ordinated by Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) and Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service (NPTV) to encourage positive emotional health and wellbeing. Telephone 01656 737494.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE IN YOUR AREA

Assembly Member holds surgery

THE Welsh Liberal Democrat Assembly Member for South Wales West, Peter Black, will be holding three advice surgeries next week.

On Friday, November 8, he will be in Pencoed Library from 2pm to 3pm. He will then be at Porthcawl Library from 3.30pm to 4.30pm and Neath Central Library between 5pm and 6pm.

No appointment is necessary.

Castle Players' Armistice show

BRIDGEND Castle Players are proud to present their Armistice Show, 'The Prisoner's Friend', a play by Peter Drake.

It is a tale about the lives and tribulations of those in the trenches of the Great War.

The evening will be held in the Bridgend United Services Club on Saturday, November 9, 8pm start.

Entry is free, with a collection to be held throughout the evening.

All proceeds (less royalties) will be divided between: 'The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal' and 'Help for Heroes'.

For further information, please visit our website: www.bridgendcastleplayers.org, or contact our secretary: secretary@bridgendcastleplayers.org.

Councillors' surgery
RESIDENTS are invited to attend an advice surgery at the County Library to discuss any council issues or concerns.

Couns Dr Ian Johnson, Steffan William, Nic Hodges and Shirley Hodges will be joined by Steve Blakeman, Marilyn Brown and the Barry Plaid Cymru team at The Community Room, The County Library, King Square, Barry, from 11am until 12 midday on Saturday, November 9.

No appointments are necessary.

Valeways walks

ON Sunday, November 10 at 10.30am, 'Garden and Fields', meeting at top car park, Southerndown.

On Tuesday, November 12 at 1.30pm, 'Woodland walk to St Lythans', starting at Wenvoe Arms car park, Wenvoe.

Musical evening

BARRY Male Voice Choir and Spectrum Singers will be singing at the Yacht Club, Barry Island on November 9 at 8pm. Tickets £5 on the door; everyone welcome.

Barry Yacht Club Christmas fayre is on November 23 at 2pm in the clubhouse. Free admission, many exciting stalls, unusual gifts, refreshments available. For further details telephone 01446 737579.

Winter art exhibition

FROM Monday, November 10 until Thursday, December 5, Cowbridge Art Society will hold its Winter Art Exhibition at Old Hall Cowbridge (usual Old Hall opening times, telephone 01446 773831 to confirm).

The exhibition will be of up to 100 original works of art done in a variety of media, most of which will be for sale for very reasonable prices.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, 7-9pm, and visitors and new members are most welcome.

For details of the society's activities see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

History group's next meeting

THE next meeting of the Dinas Powys Local History Society will be on Tuesday, November 12 at 7.30pm in Kynance Hall.

There will be an illustrated talk by Pat Evans - 'They didn't knit socks' - the role of women volunteers on the front line in World War I.

An admission fee of £1.50 for members and £3 for visitors will be charged. All are very welcome to attend; enquiries to Betty Williams (029 2051 3524).

A Winter's Tale

WINTER'S Tale is the title of a Christmas demonstration to be given to members of the Barry Floral Society on November 12 by Mrs Barbara Priest of Hereford, and November 26 will see members making their own Christmas decorations.

Both events will be held at the St Nicholas Hall, Nicholas Road, Barry, commencing at 2.15pm. On December 3 (10.15am-12 noon) St Nicholas Hall will be the venue for the society's Christmas exhibition/coffee morning. Each year the club holds a number of special events and at the Christmas coffee morning makes a donation to a local charity. This year the chosen charity is Llamau.

Mayor's coffee

THE Vale of Glamorgan Mayor is hosting a charity coffee morning in aid of the Salvation Army on Tuesday November 12 from 10.30am - 12 noon in the Civic Office. All are welcome.

Speakers lined up for NFU AGM

TWO influential livestock board chairmen will be addressing Glamorgan NFU Cymru members at the annual general meeting on November 13 at the Duke of Wellington, Cowbridge.

Starting at 7.30pm, Charles Sercombe, NFU livestock board chairman, will report back on his recent tour of New Zealand, looking at the sheep sector and Lyndon Edwards, NFU Cymru livestock board chairman will provide an update on issues facing the Welsh livestock industry.

There will also be nominations for NFU and NFU Cymru officeholder positions, as well as the election of county positions on commodity boards for Glamorgan.

'Ladies in Retirement'

THE Dinas Powys Players' presentation of *Ladies in Retirement* at the Parish Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys takes place on November 14, 15 and 16.

The three-act play will be presented at 7.30pm nightly, and tickets can be obtained by telephoning 029 20512868 or 029 21406168.

PW

'Edging the Estuary' - a written journey through the Vale

PETER Finch's *Edging the Estuary* (published by Seren at £9.99) takes the reader on a journey stopping at St Donat's, Ogmose by Sea, Newton, Porthcawl, Aberthaw Power Station, Sully Island, Barry Island, and many other places which will be familiar to Glamorgan GEM readers.

A poet, author and literary entrepreneur, Peter is well known for his alternative guide books.

Of Merthyr Mawr he writes: 'It's easy to see how this place doubled as Saudi for the making

of David Lean's *Lawrence of Arabia*'.

While we learn that Sully "took its name from the Norman Baron, Reginald de Sully, one of the 12 knights of Glamorgan, who was awarded the manor at the time of the conquest."

He takes in villages and cities, power stations and fishermen, castles and caravans, leg aching walks and deckchairs on the beach, exploring both busy tourist attractions and secret havens along the coast.

The competing pleasure beaches of Porthcawl, Barry and Weston-super-Mare are just some of the places which punctuate Peter's epic walk.

BRIAN LEE

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in last week's Ty Hafan lottery number D799:

● £2,000: 192212.
● The rollover, which now stands at £10,000, was not won this week.
● £10: 2 0 5 7 8 7.
897228, 243561, 863424, 897509, 373700, 691509, 866152, 177696, 879618, 777869, 201976, 121551, 593987, 840980, 176638, 287513, 191177, 825250, 476484.

● £5: 252926, 463370, 728020, 788521, 287439, 980081, 579600, 775535, 209842, 562703, 976671, 337508, 186821,

156239, 167734, 617893, 822170, 437460, 916789, 432550, 955068, 692195, 893805, 830262, 454044, 948040, 792613, 412452, 358774, 790587, 185617, 765264, 469985, 759219, 928995, 555713, 556850, 940916, 565539, 335239, 316389, 406324, 780076, 729007, 465323, 630656, 430367, 705651, 730460, 636869, 785695, 810192, 846883, 174295, 140625, 876383, 260945, 974616, 859813, 156726.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Cowbridge Comprehensive School's Annual PTA CHRISTMAS MARKET

Looking for some unique Christmas Presents? Look no further - come to our annual Christmas Market. Over 60 stalls selling, unique & hand crafted gifts such as ceramics, prints, jewellery, accessories, cards & books.

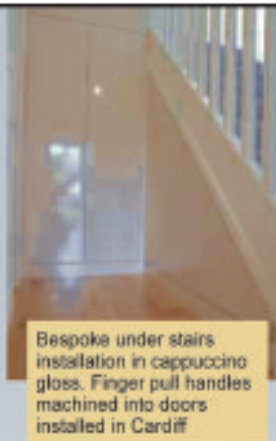
Refreshments include: mulled wine, home made mince pies, hot food & drinks.

Sunday, 17 November, 10.30am - 3.30pm
Cowbridge Comprehensive School,
Aberthin Road, Cowbridge CF71 7EN.
(If you would like a stall to sell your goods please email to: mandypterry@me.com or call 07979 148989)

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Ysgol Gyfun Porthcawl Porthcawl Comprehensive School

**Celebrating
their 80th
Anniversary**

Pupils and parents vote with their feet and head for Porthcawl!

As it celebrates its 80th anniversary, big things are happening at Porthcawl Comprehensive School. In this article, headteacher Andrew Slade reflects on the reasons that more and more pupils are choosing the school.

AS part of the run up to the school's anniversary, our Humanities Club started researching the school's 80-year history.

Looking through the old registers, we were struck by the variety of previous schools listed; pupils came from Porthcawl town and from many primary schools in the surrounding district.

This September has seen a very large intake into our year-7, with 240 pupils joining our school. What is quite remarkable is that following in the school's tradition, pupils from 25 different primary schools have decided that Porthcawl Comprehensive School is the place for their secondary education.

Over the years, the school has grown from the red brick buildings that opened in 1933, (now called P Block), to a much larger school, spread over a very large and well maintained site.

In March 1973, the Upper School was opened, and this area now comprises D and G Block. In the last 16 years, we have seen a new staff room, a theatre, a block of new classrooms for mathematics and geography, the sixth form hall – and most recently refurbished science laboratories.

This year, record numbers of students have either returned to school following their GCSE results, or joined our sixth form from other schools.

To accommodate a sixth form of almost 400, we have redeveloped the Adult Education Lounge into the 'Sixth Form Centre'.

Thanks go to Mr Parker (the site manager) and his team for all their efforts during the conversion.

The school became a comprehensive school at the beginning of the 1970s. We recognise at Porthcawl how vitally important a child's education is to succeed in an ever-changing and challenging world.

We are proud to continue to use the school's name – Porthcawl Comprehensive School – as we feel that education at our school is truly comprehensive in the best sense of the word, with something for everyone at the school, no matter what their ability, interest and aspirations.

We continue to be delighted with examination results; the summer of 2013 brought a range of excellent results.

At A-Level, the pass rate at A* to E was 98.55 per cent, while at A* to C, it was a very creditable 81.84 per cent.

At GCSE Level 1 Threshold (5 or more GCSE passes at A*–G), the school hit 96.20.

At Level 2 Threshold (5 or more GCSEs A*–C) the figure was 78.90 per cent. The Level 2 Threshold (Including English and Maths) score was 69.93.

The core subject indicator (English, Maths, Science) was 67.20 per cent, and there were no pupils leaving without qualifications.

We are looking to increase our library of memorabilia tracing the history of the school. If you are able to help, for example with old photographs, please contact the school on 01656 774100.

For more information about the school, (as it is today), please see our website www.porthcawlschool.co.uk

**KAREN PAULLADA –
Eliza Doolittle**
You might remember Karen as Fanny
Brice from last year's school
production of 'Funny Girl'. Karen is a member of the National Youth
Theatre of Wales and the National Youth Music Theatre when she
played Megan in 'Roadrunner' in the Edinburgh Festival. Karen has
appeared in numerous school productions and has taken principal roles
in all the lower school productions, and took her first principal role in
the main school show when she was 14. (She even finds time for singing
lessons with Patricia O'Neil.)



*This item is from the school's programme for the 1998
production of My Fair Lady. Karen is currently appearing
in the Sky comedy-drama series, Stella (see article below).*

The school show – a dazzling tradition at Porthcawl

**BACK in the 1980s I
was living in Cardiff,
while my parents
lived in Porthcawl,
writes PHILIP
IRWIN.**

Sometimes, over
Sunday lunch, my father
would wax lyrical about
the quality of the shows
put on by Porthcawl
Comprehensive School.

I took it all with a pinch
of salt, of course. After all,
if he had said that he had
seen Rob Brydon and
Ruth Jones on stage
together, it wouldn't have
meant anything at the
time.

Don't forget, this was
all 'pre-Glee' and years
away from the recent
explosion in interest in the
performing arts.

Roger Burnell, the
school's drama teacher at
the time, was blazing a
trail and starting a tradition
that continues to this
day.

It was back in 2001 that
I returned to Porthcawl
and saw my first school
production as The GEM's
reporter. It was *The King
and I* – and I haven't
missed one since!

Highlights? I remember
a great version of
Gypsy, when the school
was brimming with talent.
There were two girls
strong enough to play the
key role of Rose (Amy
Combes and Ria Morell)
and another two girls who
were ideal for the role of
Gypsy (Gemma Gould
and Becky John).

Leigh Coggins, who
has appeared in a recent
Les Miserables production
alongside Gareth
Gates, was in the chorus.

Among the boys in the
cast were Garnon Davies
(Hollyoaks) and regular
acting work; Michael
Conway (three years in



**ABOVE: The school
performing Fiddler on
the Roof (2012)**

**RIGHT:
Ben Westwood (with
Laura Bryce) as
Dr Jekyll in 2009.**

Jersey Boys in the West
End), Ashley Hunt who
has been getting regular
acting work ever since
leaving college, Nicky
Phillips, now a master in
musical theatre at the
Royal Welsh College of
Music and Drama, Dan
Parker, who went on to do
excellent work for the
Bridgend Youth Theatre –
and Joe Smith, now a
drama teacher at the
school!

Truth be told, reading
past programmes will
always unearth talented
performers who have
moved on to success in
theatre or TV.

Another old boy is
Matthew Gravelle (recently
the killer in
Broadchurch), and an old
girl is Karen Paullada –
now on TV in Ruth Jones' *Stella*, playing the brassy
Nadine.

In her day in
Porthcawl, she played the
lead role in *My Fair Lady*,
Funny Girl, and *Sound of
Music*.

Over the years there
have been many more fine
shows. I have seen two



excellent versions of *Les
Mis*, the most recent featuring
Joe Wiltshire-Smith, who wowed the
audience as Jean Valjean,
and he has gone on to do
great work in *Fiddler on
the Roof* and in *Jesus
Christ Superstar*.

However, the
Porthcawl shows were
never about superstars.
Every show I have seen
has depended on team
work and a whole range of
skills – on stage, in the
orchestra pit, and behind
the scenes.

School shows are ultimately all about developing
personal confidence
and a whole raft of life
skills, and if anyone out
there doubts the truth of
that – then come along to
next year's show!



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The debt we owe our Merchant Navy...

THE First World War finally ended on November 11, 1918, after four long years of fighting.

The guns stopped on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. November 11 was chosen back in 1919 as the special day each year when we would all think about and remember those who had died.

To this day, almost 100 years later, at 11am on November 11 many people across Britain stay silent for two minutes to think about those who were lost.

At first, November 11 was known as Armistice Day because 'armistice' is the word used for an agreement between enemies to stop fighting.

These days it is more usually called Remembrance Day or Poppy Day.

The sacrifice of the Merchant Navy has remained a hidden chapter in our history.

Tens of thousands of merchant seamen, fishermen and crews from tankers, some involved in minesweeping duties to help keep our sea lanes open, lost their lives during both World Wars.

We owe them a great debt. Without their efforts this country would have run out of food.

We would not have supplied our army. The raw materials needed to keep the aircraft flying would not have arrived. We would have been overrun.

SS Athenia

In 1999, after years of lobbying, the Merchant Navy was finally allowed to take part at the National Remembrance Ceremony at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, some 60 years after the first Merchant vessel the *Athenia* was lost in World War Two.

The *SS Athenia*, of the Donaldson Line was torpedoed by the enemy submarine U30 within hours of war being declared, killing 93 passengers and 19 of the crew (mainly men trapped deep down in the engine rooms).

The Merchant Navy personnel were considered civilians and not "under command".

For the first time, in the year 2000, Merchant Navy Veterans marched behind the Royal Navy in Column E and the Merchant Navy wreath was proudly laid at the Cenotaph.

The wreath, with its unique MN design, joined the 'Red Duster' which had been displayed at the Cenotaph since the memorial was dedicated.

So when remembering our Armed Forces, just for a moment also remember the unarmed forces and the many from Barry and the Vale who played such a vital part in both wars. After years of being overlooked, Merchant Navy personnel during the Year of the Convoy (2013) are also being granted further recognition for their great sacrifices in the course of duty.

October-related World War Two ships and local men lost :

The tanker *British General* was en route from the Tyne for Abadan when she was torpedoed by U-37 and sunk on October 6, 1940.

The crew of 47 was reported missing, including local man Henry Mason.

On October 10, 1940 the *SS Graigwen* a cargo steamer on route from Montreal for Barry was torpedoed by German submarine U-123 and sunk.

Seven of her crew including Ronald J Ponsford were lost from a total of 34.

On October 18, 1940 the *SS Fiscus* in convoy SC-7, was torpedoed and was sunk East of Rockall by U-99.

The master, 36 crew members including locals William Bradford, Clifford Roy Hopkins and Gethyn W Richards, and one gunner, were lost.

Two days later the cargo steamer *SS Whitford Point* on route from Baltimore to London in Convoy HX-79 was torpedoed by German submarine U-47 and sunk 90 miles SW of Rockall. Local men Ali Kassim, John H Conibear, Thomas Hillberg and John Edward Young were among the 37 crew lost from a total crew of 39.

On October 21, 1941, the cargo steam-

er *Teverybyn* when en route from Pepel to Cardiff, was torpedoed and sunk by German submarine U-82.

The vessel was in Convoy SL-89. A crew of 48 was presumed lost including local men Henry Edwards and Edward Paul Lewis.

Also, on October 21, the armed British cargo *MV King Malcolm* was last reported, and never heard of again.

She had a crew of 34 and four gunners.

It has been recorded that the *King Malcolm* was hit by torpedo and sank in 30 seconds.

Apparently this ship went down before it could radio an alarm.

Local men lost were George D Ashton, George Henry Cliff, Patrick Cullen, Gordon Illtyd Down, Matis Jacobson, Albert E V Manning, Ernest A Petersen, Juan Rufo and Jan Snyder.

The *Rose Schiaffino* was torpedoed by the U-Boat 374 on October 31, 1941.

The master, 36 crew members including locals Ahmed Mohamed, Thomas Baston, Klaas De Wit, Daniel Cadogan, Karl Eugen Eriksen, John Foley, William Henry James, Ahmed Jheai, Terence Lewis, Nagi Mohamed, Joseph Norton, Jose Ocampos, Jose Pires, Maelgwyn Richardson, Arthur Robertson, Mocabil Salem, Charles Burman Stiff, Emanuel Teuma and four gunners were lost.

The *SS Pennington Court*, a straggler from a convoy, was torpedoed by U-254 and sank south-east of Cape Farewell on October 9, 1942 with the loss of all on board including local man William E Pratt.

The unescorted *SS Agapenor* was hit by two torpedoes from U-87 about 180 miles south of Freetown on October 11, 1942, and sank after being hit aft by another torpedo.

Seven crew members were lost including local man Ivor Victor King.

On October 12, 1942, U-706 fired a torpedo at the *SS Stormest* west of Ireland and observed a hit under the aft mast.

The ship was a straggler from convoy

ONS-136 due to heavy weather.

The master, 37 crew members including local men Anton Andersen, James T Edwards, Edward Fellows, Sidney Flynn, Clifford K R Gurd, Barrie Higgins, Frederick B John, Thomas Owen Lamb, William G Poulsen, Idris G Pritchard, William H Robinson, William Arthur Weeks, Charles G Williams, and ten gunners, were lost.

The Norwegian steamer *Lysland* and the British steamer *George Balfour* were torpedoed.

The burning *Lysland* was towed into the Humber. *George Balfour* broke into parts during the towing and ran aground.

Local men lost during the *SS George Balfour* action were James Gronhaug and Harry Mawson.

On October 29, 1942, the *SS Bullmouth* was torpedoed and damaged by U-409 about 100 miles NW of Madeira and became a straggler.

She was later struck by a further two torpedoes from U-659 and sank.

The master, 44 crew members includ-

ing local men John T Howells and Arthur G Hutton and five unknown DEMS gunners were lost.

On the same day the *SS Barrwhin* in convoy HX-212 was hit by one torpedo from U-436 and sank quickly south of Iceland.

Local men lost were Bosun Peter Antman and Chief Steward Martin Benedict Preiera, husband of Rose Gertrude Preiera of Cadoxton.

On October 4, 1943 the British steamship *Fort Fitzgerald*, was bombed by German Do-217 aircraft and sank NW of Cape Tenes.

The sinking saw the loss of local man Ahmed Nagi, aged 42.

*"They shall grow not old,
As we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning,
We will remember them."*

JT Greenway

FORMER CHIEF FIRE OFFICER BERT REACHES 100

BERT PREECE, who for many years was the chief fire officer for Barry, Penarth, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major, is celebrating his 100th birthday on November 10.

He joined the old Auxiliary Fire Service in 1938 and on the outbreak of war was called up to Barry fire station, being seconded to Swansea during the wartime blitz.

Having risen through the ranks during the war, he became station officer for Barry and the Vale on its cessation. He

served Barry and the Vale for many years before being promoted to divisional officer based in Bridgend, a position he held until his retirement in 1972.

He was married to his beloved Rene for 73 years until her death last year at the age of 97.

He is still active and likes nothing better than going out for a weekly meal with his sons to the Colcot Arms in Barry.

For his birthday celebration he will be joined by his children, his grandchildren, his great grandchildren and his great-great grandchildren at a restaurant in Cardiff.



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Could Hypnotherapy be the solution for your child?

Like adults, children can suffer emotional or psychological/cognitive problems from time to time.

Growing up can be difficult with all the new challenges life can bring. Sometimes children cannot cope with the emotions generated resulting in them being "bottled up" leading to unhelpful thought patterns which can cause anxiety and stress, exacerbating conditions such as asthma; eczema; behavioural problems and unwanted habits.

Local hypnotherapist, Sue Pitman practises Solution Focused hypnotherapy helping chil-

dren suffering such as low confidence/self esteem; sleep disorders; bed wetting; phobias; exam nerves. Studies show children (7 to 17) respond positively to hypnosis and talking therapy which Sue combines with cognitive behavioural therapy and NLP techniques, focusing on the child's solution.

For more information call Sue on 07795 964066 or see www.cardiffhypnotherapysolutions.co.uk for more information.



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Will Aid – no better time to get a Will done

IMAGINE you've lived with your partner for 20 years in his house. You've never married and you have no children. Your partner dies suddenly and hasn't made a will. After the funeral his family, who you haven't seen for years, ask you to leave the house.

Can they do that? The answer is, probably, yes.

The concept of a 'common law wife' doesn't exist in law and a co-habitee has no automatic right to inherit her partner's estate or deal with his assets and personal possessions.

Where there isn't a will rigid statutory rules come into effect known as 'the intestacy rules'.

These rules lay down the order in which family members are entitled to the grant of probate. They also specify who can inherit. Unmarried partners are not included in the list.

Of course, the co-habitee may have other rights (an Inheritance Act claim or rights to an equitable interest in the property) but these will cost time and money to assert which could have been avoided had a simple will been drafted.

We regularly see situations where the small cost of making a will could have saved money later. A common situation arises where a parent has several children from different relationships and doesn't make a will.

If there is no spouse the children are entitled to the grant and in general terms the rule is 'first come first served'.

It won't be any sur-

prise to know that a row frequently breaks out as to who should be in charge. This messy situation can be avoided if the parent takes a few minutes to decide who he or she wants to inherit and executes a valid will.

Even if a will is made, if it isn't done properly it may be invalid. Homemade wills can be a big problem. A technical flaw or uncertain wording or even the crossing out of names and gifts can make a will invalid or worse, partially invalid.

If you are among the 60 per cent of the population who haven't yet made a will, there has never been a better time to do it.

For the whole month of November, you can make a simple will with firms of solicitors who sponsor Will Aid.

For one month, Hutton's will waive its fee and invite clients to make a donation to Will Aid. Will Aid was founded 25 years ago and over the years we are proud to have helped raise over £13.6 million for causes such as the Red Cross, Action Aid, the NSPCC and many other charities.

To find out more about this scheme please contact: Clare Strowbridge, Hutton's Advocates & Solicitors, 16 St Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff CF10 3DD, telephone 029 2037 8621 or email: clare.strowbridge@huttons-solicitors.co.uk

Quality care for all our doggy clients

VALE Dog Grooming is a small grooming salon run by qualified and compassionate staff.

The quality and care of our doggy clients are our first priority, and each and every one is treated in a gentle manner so that the groom is a pleasurable experience.

No drying cabinets are used and our pets are with a member of staff at all times.

Grooming is by appointment and there is a cancellation list so sometimes grooming can be arranged at a short notice; please ring to check availability.

Collection and delivery is also available on request. Please ring for further details – telephone 01446 760236.

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WHAT DO YOU DO WITH YOUR OLD DIRECTORIES?

NOVEMBER is usually the time the new directories for 2014 will start to land on doorsteps, which sometimes leaves people with the quandary as to what to do with their old ones.

The Vale Council's cabinet

member for the environment and visible services, Coun Rob Curtis, said: "Please add them to your kerbside collection to be recycled."

"It doesn't even matter if the directory is a mixed material – that is a hard-backed card cover and paper pages, pop them in your blue co-mingled bag or ide-

ally at the base of your green box (we ask for it to be at the bottom, to try and preserve the paper quality should it rain).

"Our terms will do the rest; feasibly your 2013 information could be recycled and turned into something different you will be reading in 2014!"

What's in your bin?
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In Business Update

Vale Cycling Servicing will build your Christmas bike

MANY people will be buying a bike through the internet for someone this Christmas. Avoid the disappointment of a box of bits on the big day by having it professionally assembled.

Prices start from £30 for a bike in a box to £120 for a bike built from parts to your specification.

All bikes will be built to British Standards BS 6102: Part 1: 1992;
www.bsieducation.org/Education14-

19/bicycles/bicycle-spec.shtml.

Bespoke built bicycles also include first service and delivery in the Vale free.

If you've got any questions about having a bike built to your specification, then please contact Vale Cycle Servicing (see advert).

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Help to Buy 2 comes to Wales!

IF you've been thinking of moving home but are struggling to find a large enough deposit, help may be at hand!

A Government-backed scheme, Help to Buy: Mortgage Guarantee (also known as Help to Buy 2), should mean that more high loan-to-value mortgages become available to would-be borrowers – and the good news is this scheme is available to borrowers in Wales.

For the borrower, the new mortgages will work just like any normal house loan, but at loans-to-value between 80 and 95 per cent.

This means that the borrower may only have to find a five per cent deposit.

The new mortgages will be available for both home movers and first time buyers, subject to certain restrictions.

While the scheme may help borrowers to move onto or up the property ladder, it is important to note that borrowers remain fully responsible for their mortgage payments and any shortfall in the normal way, and they will be subject to lenders' normal checks on your eligibility for the new scheme.

For independent mortgage advice, contact CBK Wales on 0300 303 8525 or email info@cbkwales.co.uk.

Pre-Christmas installation of kitchen or bedroom

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Fireworks display goes off with a bang!

THE annual fireworks display lit up Barry Island on Tuesday, November 5, as thousands came to see the excitement.

PHILIP J BROWN took these pictures overlooking the Old Harbour, and as you can see, there was plenty to wow the crowd.



Public Notices

NOTICE OF CO-OPTION Section 116 Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011

COWBRIDGE (ANCIENT BOROUGH) WITH LLANBLETHIAN TOWN COUNCIL

LLANBLETHIAN WEST WARD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that ONE Vacancy has occurred in the office of Councillor for the above mentioned Ward, and the Town Council intends to co-opt.

Expressions of interest are being sought from members of the public who meet the following qualifications and are interested in representing their community on the aforementioned Town Council. You must be a British, Commonwealth, Irish or a European Union citizen and be 18 years of age or over; and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- registered as a local government elector for the area named above; or
- during the whole of the last 12 months occupied as owner or tenant land or other premises in the community named above; or
- your principal or only place of work during the last 12 months has been in the community named above; or
- you have during the whole of the last 12 months resided in the Community or within 4.8 kilometres of it.

*Certain people are disqualified from standing, and these include paid officers of the town council, anyone subject to bankruptcy restriction orders and those subject to recent sentences of imprisonment. It is the responsibility of the candidates to ensure that they are qualified to stand.

Signed Andrew Davies, Town Clerk
Dated this 7th November 2013.

If you wish to be considered for co-option for the vacant seat or want more information regarding the role of a Town Councillor please contact the Town Clerk at The Town Hall, 21 High Street, Cowbridge, CF71 7AD by Friday 29th November 2013

NOTICE OF CO-OPTION Section 116 Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011

LLANTWIT MAJOR TOWN COUNCIL NORTH WARD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that ONE Vacancy has occurred in the office of Councillor for the above mentioned Ward, and the Town Council intends to co-opt.

Expressions of interest are being sought from members of the public who meet the following qualifications and are interested in representing their community on the aforementioned Town Council. You must be a British, Commonwealth, Irish or a European Union citizen and be 18 years of age or over; and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- registered as a local government elector for the area named above; or
- during the whole of the last 12 months occupied as owner or tenant land or other premises in the community named above; or
- your principal or only place of work during the last 12 months has been in the community named above; or
- you have during the whole of the last 12 months resided in the Community or within 4.8 kilometres of it.

*Certain people are disqualified from standing, and these include paid officers of the town council, anyone subject to bankruptcy restriction orders and those subject to recent sentences of imprisonment. It is the responsibility of the candidates to ensure that they are qualified to stand.

Signed Ruth Quinn, Town Clerk
Dated this 1st November 2013.

If you wish to be considered for co-option for the vacant seat or want more information regarding the role of Town Councillor please contact the Town Clerk, Town Hall, Llantwit Major, CF61 1SD by Wednesday 20th November 2013.

Gladstone pupils help make world a brighter place

ON Friday October 4, Gladstone Primary School celebrated their harvest festival in their usual caring, sharing way.

Children from years 2 to 6 sang, danced and performed to the rest of the school in a service of thanksgiving.

Proudly on display were a multitude of household items, clothes, books and toys donated by parents and friends of Gladstone all ready to be boxed and sent off to Track 2000 – a charity committed to serving those in need in the local community.

At the end of the assembly, Track 2000 came to collect the items. It took over 50

children from year-5 to help carry everything to the van and the driver, Glyn, said that he had never seen his van so full in nine years.

The year-5 children then sang 'We are the World' as the van drove off – and the words 'It's true we'll make a brighter day, just you and me' have never been so poignant.

Teacher and organiser Sarah Creasey enthused: "Team Gladstone have done it again. The children performed so beautifully, which is a credit to the fantastic staff and our parents gave as generously as ever. The looks on the faces of the Track 2000 staff said it all!"



JENNER PARK PUPILS' WOODLAND EXHIBITION



Some of the children with their exhibition.

AS part of a Cornerstones 'Wild Wood' topic, year-4 pupils in Jenner Park Primary have been busy working towards an art exhibition in Porthkerry Forest Lodge.

The children started learning all about the inhabitants of the local woodland with a visit to Porthkerry Park in September. Since then, the children have created robust 3D models of woodland creatures using wire and mod roc.

Also, children wrote poetry and reports based on woodland creatures.

On Friday October 25, children invited their families and friends to come and see their work laid out in an exhibition in the lodge.

A school spokesman said: "It has been a huge success and children's work will remain on display in the lodge for the foreseeable future, to inspire our community."

Dinas Powys runs DIY drop-in session on LDP

THERE is outrage that the Vale Council has failed to organise a public event in Dinas Powys regarding the Local Development Plan (LDP).

Therefore the local community councillors have organised a drop-in session for residents to air their views on Saturday, November 16 at the Murchfield Hall, Sunnycroft Lane from 10am to 12 noon.

The latest proposals for the St Cyres annexe site by the Vale Council changes the land designation from housing to mixed use.

This means that the site would be allocated for housing and community use. The number of houses proposed is 300.

Land off Caerleon Road will see an increase in the proposed number of houses. The latest figure is 75 houses.

In both instances, access would be via the Murch Road/Cardiff Road junction.

However the document gives no indication how this junction could cope with extra traffic.

The issue of dealing with traffic from the site remains vague with the draft plan stating that "a suitable safe access is required" and that a "full and comprehensive Scoping Study" should be agreed. Nor is there any reference to the by-pass.

In reality, there is no detail about transport and how the local roads and the main Cardiff Road will cope with the additional traffic.

There are two new sites, one at Ardwyn the former children's home off Penyturmpike and 50 properties at Cross Common Road opposite Hebron Hall.

Here a new junction would be required with the main road.

The final result, if all this is agreed, is there will be an increase in housing, up from 400 to 440.

However the major issue of public transport and extra vehicles heading to Cardiff and Barry has been glossed over and must be addressed first.

Dinas Powys
Community Council

GROUP MEETING

The Vale of Glamorgan Diabetes UK Voluntary Group will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, November 19, at the Board Room, Llandough Hospital, Penarth from 7.30pm - 9.00pm.

The speaker will be Dr Richard Chudeleigh, whose talk is entitled 'Kidney Complications in Diabetes'; all are welcome.



The GEM is donating a minimum of £150 to the Poppy Appeal from the proceeds of this feature

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

How the poppy became a symbol of Remembrance...

IT'S that time of year when we begin to notice that there are poppies for sale almost everywhere we look and we put our hands in our pockets and place our contribution in the collecting box and pin a poppy emblem to our jackets and coats.

Have you ever thought about why we follow this custom? Yes, I know it's our way of supporting the Royal British Legion's annual appeal, but why a poppy, and what do they do with the money?

The first of these symbols of Remembrance went on sale in November 1921, but it might surprise readers to know that it wasn't actually a British idea. It's one of those things that wasn't thought up by any single person but evolved from the actions of three people – a Canadian medical officer, an American YMCA worker and a French lady.

On May 3, 1915, after presiding over the funeral of a friend and fellow soldier who died in the Second Battle of Ypres, the Canadian medical officer, a Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, was inspired to write a poem.

McCrae, appalled by the carnage he saw, performed the burial service himself, at which time he noted how poppies quickly grew around the graves of those who died.

The next day, he composed the poem while sitting in the back of an ambulance. According to

legend, fellow soldiers retrieved the poem after McCrae, initially unsatisfied with his work, discarded it. 'In Flanders Fields' was first published on December 8 of that year in the London-based magazine *Punch*.

*In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

It is one of the most popular and most quoted poems from the war. However, the idea of the poppy as a symbol of Remembrance then moved to the USA.

The idea for the Flanders Fields Memorial Poppy came to Moina Michael while she was working at

the YMCA Overseas War Secretaries headquarters, on a Saturday morning in November 1918, two days before the Armistice was declared at 11 o'clock on November 11.

At about 10.30am, when everyone was on duty elsewhere, Moina found a few moments to read a magazine. In it she came across a page that carried a vivid colour illustration for the poem 'We Shall Not Sleep' (later named 'In Flanders Fields') written by the Canadian Army doctor, John McCrae.

Reading the poem on this occasion, she had read it several times before. Moina was transfixed by the last verse – 'To you from failing hands we throw the torch; be yours to hold it high. If ye break faith with us who die, we shall not sleep, though poppies grow in Flanders Fields.'

At that moment Moina Michael made a personal pledge to 'keep the faith' and vowed always to wear a red poppy of Flanders Fields as a sign of Remembrance and as an emblem for 'keeping the faith with all who died'. She then wrote these words in reply.

*Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet – to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With all who died.*

*We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valour led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.*

*And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honor of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields. In Flanders Fields we fought.*

She distributed silk poppies to her friends and campaigned to have it adopted as an official symbol of Remembrance by the American Legion.

The French lady now enters the story. Madame Guerin, who attended the 1920 convention of the American Legion, supported Moina Michael's proposal and was herself inspired to sell poppies in her native France, to raise money for the war's orphans.

In 1921, Madame Guerin sent poppy sellers to London ahead of Armistice Day, attracting the attention of Field Marshal Douglas Haig. A co-founder of the Royal British Legion, Haig supported and encouraged the sale.

The practice quickly spread throughout the British empire and became the official symbol of Remembrance. The sale and wearing of poppies in the days leading up to Remembrance Day, helps to raise the funds needed to support Servicemen and women who have been injured in the service of our country and dependants of those who gave their lives.

Amongst other support programmes the Defence Recovery Capability programme delivers coordinated recovery support for currently serving personnel who are wounded, injured or sick.

In conjunction with the Ministry of Defence and other Service charities, the Legion is helping to fund Personnel Recovery Centres and the Battle Back centre as part of this programme, to help individuals recover and either return to duty, or to re-skill and, with support, move successfully into civilian life.

These programmes alone are costing millions of pounds to support. Financial support is also being given to help fund the Combat Stress organisation which deals with an ever increasing number of servicemen suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

As operations in Afghanistan start to wind down, and the troops start to come home, there are many who will think that the support which the Legion gives will also wind down.

In fact, there will be a need to support the many who have returned with life-changing injuries for many years to come.

The Poppy will remain as an essential means of ensuring that the sacrifice of those who have given their country life or limb will not only be remembered, but given the support that they both need and deserve.

BOB WHEATLEY

The Mayor of Barry Councillor Claire Curtis



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On behalf of
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Mayor, Councillor Margaret
Wilkinson, wishes the Royal
British Legion's Poppy Appeal
every success and is pleased
to support this worthy cause.



Ar ran Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
y mae'r Maer, y Cyngorydd
Margaret Wilkinson am ddymuno
pob llwyddiant i **Apel Y Pabi'r**
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Legion's Poppy Appeal
David Melding AM



If David can be of assistance
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Email: david.melding@wales.gov.uk
Tel: 02920 898732

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Cymreig**

'We will remember them...'

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

The GEM is donating a minimum of £150 to the Poppy Appeal from the proceeds of this feature

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WELSH PEOPLE HAVE LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES ACROSS THE WORLD IN PURSUIT OF FREEDOM

THE year 2014 sees the start of the centenary events to commemorate the Great War and I am honoured to sit on several Welsh Government committees advising our government as to the most appropriate way of remembering all those who served in that conflict.

We will take this opportunity to give events here in Wales a unique identity and to look at parts of the war other than the ones traditionally referred to: the first day of the Somme, Passchendaele et al (dreadful though these battles were).

It is important to realise there was sacrifice in other parts of the world too.

The coming years should give us all a chance to look again at our view of Wales's involvement in the Great War and to consider areas that have become a little lost in the mists of time.

This will allow us to refocus our attention, whether it be the 2015 tribute to the first major action of the Welsh Guards at Loos; the 2016 commemoration of the momentous battle for Mametz Wood, involving the other three Welsh regiments; the 2017 recollection of the life and death of the poet Hedd Wyn; the Welsh airmen who flew with the Royal Flying Corps; the sailors who served in the Pacific and the Atlantic; the efforts of the peace movements to end the war; the role of women in the support services or in the armaments factories; the miners and factory workers who provided the material for the three services or the merchant seamen who risked their lives to keep raw materials and food flowing into the country.

All deserve our respect and our thanks.

We should also remember that Welsh men and women served and laid down their lives in theatres across the world, from the Western Front to China, from East Africa to Mesopotamia and a whole host of other areas.

They served on land, at sea and in the air and, sadly, many never came home to the land of their birth.

Over the next few years there will be national events and many thousands of hours of television programmes recalling the sacri-



DR JONATHAN HICKS EXPLAINS THE IMPORTANCE OF REMEMBRANCE

fice made by our forebears, but the most poignant events will be those that occur at local levels, where communities throughout Wales will pay their own respects to former inhabitants of their cities, towns and villages who paid the ultimate price for the policies of national governments. This is where true remembrance will take place.

There will, rightly, be many one-off events over the next five years which will unite the nation in its gratitude, but it is the ceremonies that go on year after year on Remembrance Sunday which I would like to highlight in this piece.

This coming Sunday people will attend services at local memorials and in local places of worship, whatever the weather, as they do each year, and will continue to do so even after the hubris of the next few years has passed, to remember the dead who gave their lives in the cause of freedom.

There is one casualty of the Great War to whom I should like to pay tribute this year.

Private Samuel Gordon Moore was just 19 when he was killed on October 15, 1918 – less than a month before the war would end.

A chaplain wrote to his parents at 4 Tydfil Street, Barry Dock: "His company were storming a wood which the enemy stubbornly held, and Moore, at the forefront of the fight with no cover whatever, remained at his gun until it was



Samuel Gordon Moore.

red hot, firing round after round into the enemy forces.

"This example of soul bravery rallied the others and at the most critical moment – and there is no doubt that had he been spared, he would have received high decoration – but at the summit of his success, when this brave boy had achieved an almost superhuman act, he was hit with a bullet and died instantly."

Samuel was serving with the 2nd Battalion of the South Wales Borderers. To illustrate that he will not be forgotten, in October 2018 the inhabitants of the village of Gulleghem, near Ypres in Belgium, where he fell, will be holding a special ceremony to remember the sacrifice that Samuel and his fellow soldiers made on that day – a remarkable tribute.

Samuel is also listed on Barry's Roll of Honour inside the Memorial Hall.

Because it is important that young people understand the significance of Remembrance Sunday, students from my school, St Cyres, will be laying wreaths at services in Barry, Penarth and Dinas Powys over the coming days to show their determination to ensure that the names of the fallen will never be forgotten.

I have recently set up two Facebook sites – 'Barry and WW1' and 'Barry and WW2' – and invite readers to share on these sites their memories of the roles their relatives played in the two terrible conflicts of the last century so that we can all ensure that they will always be remembered.

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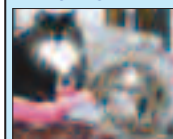
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www.aluncairns.co.uk

Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival looks forward to another 10 years!

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE
AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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by contacting:

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Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk

COWBRIDGE Food and Drink Festival celebrated its 10th anniversary over the weekend of October 26-27.

As you can, see people of all generations enjoyed the two days, and the festival is promising to come back next year – even bigger and better.

Here's to the next 10 years!



'All Age' service at All Saints

THE monthly 'All Age' service at All Saints Church, Penarth, on October 27 attracted the usual large

congregation.

We were delighted to welcome once again members of 12th Penarth Brownie Pack, who enjoyed assisting with the collection and serv-

ing refreshments after the service.

This month's theme was the story Jesus told of the Good Samaritan, and what it teaches us about loving our neigh-

bour.

The story was told through an 'instant drama' using volunteers from the congregation, and the address was given by Reader Jennifer Hardye.

Prayers were led by members of the youth group, and the service included the usual mix of traditional hymns and contemporary worship songs.

The next All Age service will be on Sunday, November 24 at 10am – all are welcome.

For more information, visit www.allsaints-penarth.org.uk.

MEL GRIFFIN

'SHOULDN'T COUNCIL FOLLOW ED'S LEAD?

IT is great to see that Ed Miliband plans to give firms paying the Living Wage a tax break of up to £1,000 for every worker they help.

This would certainly help workers to get out of the cycle of low wages and poverty.

It is just a great pity that his Leader of the Vale Council does not make the same pledge and support taking our own council workers out of low pay.

Of course, he is saying exactly the same as the Tories did about the minimum wage, that it would cost jobs and services, and therefore I must question his Socialist credentials.

Coun Richard Bertin, Barry

VALE MP TABLES 10-MINUTE RULE BILL

YESTERDAY in Parliament (Wednesday) Vale MP Alun Cairns tabled a new law to help combat nuisance telephone calls.

The law, which is part of a series of measures aimed at tackling the problem will allow people to identify callers before answering and make it easier to complain when the opt-out facility has been

breached.

Mr Cairns explained that in order to make a complaint about a nuisance call, the marketing company need to be identified. However, most withhold their telephone numbers.

The new law will force all non-domestic telephone callers to display their number. This will also allow local residents to decide whether to answer the

telephone or not.

Alun Cairns' 10 Minute Rule Bill will empower OFCOM to manage a database for those organisations that require their number to remain anonymous, such as the police or domestic violence charities.

Mr Cairns commented: "I have received many complaints by constituents who have been plagued

by nuisance calls. It has been almost impossible to complain about these calls without knowing the telephone number of the caller.

"This Bill will make it easier to complain and will empower constituents to choose whether they want to answer the phone or not. It will also provide more evidence to the regulators to fine those companies that are breaching the Telephone Preference Service code."

The Vale MP added: "When caller ID was first introduced all numbers were displayed. Now, most organisations withhold it – including Parliament. It is right and fair that charities such as Women's Aid or the police are able to withhold their numbers, but that should be the exception rather than the rule."

This Bill follows the recent launch of a report by the All Parliamentary Party Group (APPG) on Nuisance Calls, co-chaired by Alun Cairns MP, which listed 16 recommendations to combat nuisance calls.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004

The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales)

Regulations 2005 (Regulation 17)

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010

Notice of Deposit of Proposals for a Local Development Plan

Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011- 2026

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has prepared Local Development Plan (LDP) documents for the above Plan. The LDP will, upon adoption, replace the current Development Plan and form the basis for decisions on land use planning for the Vale of Glamorgan.

The LDP documents include the 'Deposit LDP', the Sustainability Appraisal Report (which incorporates the Environmental Report), and an Initial Consultation Report together with other supporting documents.

The 6 week consultation period will commence on **Friday 8th November 2013** and will end at **5pm on Friday 20th December 2013**.

All documents are available for inspection on the Council's website at: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp. Hard copies are also available for public inspection free of charge during normal opening hours at the following locations:

- Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU
- Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT
- Vale of Glamorgan Council, Alps Depot, Quarry Road, Wenvoe, CF5 6AA
- All Vale of Glamorgan Libraries.

In addition there will be a number of public exhibitions within the Vale of Glamorgan, the dates, times and locations of which can be found on the Council's web site or by telephoning 01446 700111.

Representations (including objections) in respect of the Deposit LDP can be made :-

ONLINE – By completing the electronic form at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp

BY EMAIL – In writing (preferably using the Representation Form) to ldp@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

BY POST - In writing (preferably using the Representation Form) and sending to: The LDP Team, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT

Representations must be received **no later than 5pm on Friday 20th December 2013**.

Representations (including those taking the form of objections) should specify the matters to which they relate. Objections should also specify the change sought, the grounds on which they are made and the test(s) of soundness to which they relate (see below).

A form for making representations and guidance notes are available from the above address or on-line at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp.

The Authority's Feedback Mechanism.

The Deposit LDP will be considered by an independent Inspector who will assess whether it is 'sound'. There are a number of tests of soundness and these can be found on the form for making representations or at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp. Objections to the Deposit LDP should make reference to these tests wherever possible.

Any representation proposing a new or extended site for development or one that proposes to incorporate a site rejected by the Authority should include information on the site's compatibility with the Plan's sustainability appraisal and community involvement.

The Authority has prepared guidance on the work required by the proponent for alternative sites presented in response to this consultation, and has made the Authority's baseline data and assessment methodology available on its website. An alternative site which has not been subject to sustainability appraisal is unlikely to be considered suitable for allocation in the Plan by the Inspector.

Representations may also be accompanied by a request to be notified at a specified address of the next stage of the LDP and/or that the LDP has been submitted to the Welsh Government for independent examination and/or of the adoption of the Plan.

The Local Planning Authority cannot change the Plan at this stage but it can decide whether it is in favour of any changes proposed. Representations made in accordance with this notice (i.e. 'duly made') will be considered by an independent Inspector appointed to examine the soundness of the Plan.

Only those making representations seeking to change the Deposit LDP (i.e. objectors) whose representations were 'duly made' have the right to appear before and be heard by the Inspector at the Examination. (Section 64 (6) of the 2004 Act.)

Further information is available from the Council's website at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp or by contacting the LDP Team at the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT, by phone on 01446 700111, or by email at ldp@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Deddf Cynllunio A Phrynu Gorfodol 2004

Rheoliadau Asesu Amgylcheddol Cynlluniau A Rhaglenni (Cymru) 2004

Rheoliadau Cynllunio Gwlad A Thref

(Cynllun Datblygu Lleol) (Cymru) 2005 (Rheoliad 17)

Rheoliadau Cadwraeth Cynefinoedd A Rhywogaethau 2010

Rhybudd o Adneuo Cynigion ar gyfer Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Cyngor Bro Morgannwg 2011 - 2026

Mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg wedi paratodi dogfennau Cynllun Datblygu Lleol ar gyfer y Cynllun uchod. Bydd y Cynllun Datblygu, ar ôl ei fabwysiadu, yn disodli'r cynllun datblygu presennol, a bydd yn sail i benderfyniadau ynglŷn â chynllunio ar gyfer defnyddio i'r ym Mro Morgannwg.

Mae dogfennau'r CDLI yn cynnwys y Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Adneuo; Adroddiad Gwerthuso Cynaliadwydd (sy'n cynnwys yr Adroddiad Amgylcheddol) a'r Adroddiad Ymgynghori cychwynnol a dogfennau ategol eraill.

Bydd y cynnod ymgynghori 6 wythnos yn dechrau ar **ddydd Gwener 8 Tachwedd 2013** ac yn dod i ben am **5pm ar ddydd Gwener 20 Rhagfyr 2013**.

Cewch ddarllen yr holl ddogfennau ar wefan y cyngor drwy fynd i www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp. Mae copiau caled ar gael hefyd i'r cyhoedd eu darllen yn rhad ac am ddim yn y manau canlynol yn ystod oriau agor arferol:

- Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Heol Holton, Y Barri, CF63 4RU
- Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT
- Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Canolfan yr Alpau, Heol y Chwarel, Gwenvô, CF5 6AA
- Holl Lyfrgelloedd a Bro Morgannwg.

Bydd nifer o arddangosfeydd cyhoeddus yn cael eu cynnal yn y Fro hefyd, a chewch wybod dyddiadau, amserau a lleoliadau'r rhain drwy fynd i wefan y cyngor neu ffonio 01446 700111.

Cewch wneud sylwadau ar y Cynllun Adneuo (a mynegi gwrthwynebiad iddo hefyd, os mynnwch):-

AR-LEIN – drwy lenwi'r ffurflen electronig ar safle www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp

DRWY E-BOST – drwy ysgrifennu i gyfeiriad ldp@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk (gan ddefnyddio'r ffurflen sylwadau, os oes modd)

DRWY'R POST – drwy ysgrifennu at Dim y Cynllun Datblygu Lleol, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT (gan ddefnyddio'r ffurflen sylwadau os oes modd).

Mae'n rhaid i'r holl sylwadau ein **cyrraedd erbyn 5pm ar ddydd Gwener 20 Rhagfyr 2013**.

Wrth wneud sylwadau neu fynegi gwrthwynebiad i'r Cynllun, dylech egluro beth yn union sydd gennych mewn golwg. Wrth fynegi gwrthwynebiad, dylech egluro'r union newid yr ydych am ei weld a'ch rheswm dros ei gynnig, a chyfeirio hefyd at y prawf neu'r profion cadernid sy'n berthnasol iddo (gweler isod).

Cewch ffurflen ar gyfer eich sylwadau a nodiadau canllaw drwy ysgrifennu i'r cyfeiriad uchod neu drwy fynd i www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp

Prosesau Awdurdod yr Awdurdod

Bydd y Cynllun Adneuo'n cael ei ystyried gan Arolygydd annibynnol a fydd yn asesu p'un ai fo'n 'gadarn' ai peidio. Mae nifer o brofion cadernid, a chewch weld y rhain ar y ffurflen sylwadau neu drwy fynd i www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp. Dylech gyfeirio at y profion hyn gymaint ag sy'n bosibl wrth fynegi gwrthwynebiad i'r Cynllun.

Dylai unrhyw gynnig am ddatblygu safle newydd neu estynedig, neu am gynnwys safle a wrthodwyd gan yr Awdurdod, ddangos i ba raddau y mae'r safle hwnnw'n cydwedd â gwerthusiad cynaliadwydd y Cynllun ac yn cynnwys y gymuned.

Mae'r Awdurdod wedi paratodi canllawiau ar y gwaith y mae'n rhaid ei wneud er mwyn cynnig safle gwahanol mewn ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad hwn, ac y mae methodoleg asesu a data sylfaenol i'w gweld ar ein gwefan. Nid yw'r Arolygydd yn debyg o gwybodaeth unrhyw safle o'r fath ar gyfer ei gynnwys y Cynllun onidai ei fod eisoes wedi'i werthuso o safbwynt cynaliadwydd.

Wrth wneud eich sylwadau, cewch hefyd ofyn i ni anfon nodyn atoch i gyfeiriad penodol i'ch rhybuddio: bod cam nesaf y Cynllun wedi dechrau; bod y Cynllun wedi cael ei gyllwyno i Lywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer ei archwilio'n annibynnol a/neu fod y Cynllun wedi'i fabwysiadu.

Ni all yr Awdurdod Cynllunio Lleol newid y Cynllun yn ystod y cam hwn, ond gall benderfynu pa un a yw o blaid unrhyw newid a gynigwyd ai peidio. Bydd sylwadau sydd wedi'u gwneud yn unol â'r hysbysiad hwn (h.y. yn briodol) yn cael eu hystyried gan Arolygydd annibynnol a benodwyd i archwilio cadernid y cynllun.

Dim ond y rhai sydd wedi gwneud sylwadau 'yn briodol' er mwyn ceisio newid y Cynllun Adneuo (h.y. gwrthwynebwyr) a fydd yn cael ymddangos gerbron yr Arolygydd yn ystod yr Archwiliad a chael gwrandawriad. (Adran 64(6) Deddf 2004)

Cewch rador o wybodaeth drwy fynd i wefan y cyngor - www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp - a thrwy gysylltu â Thim y Cynllun Datblygu Lleol, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri, CF63 4RT drwy ffonio 01446 700111 neu anfon neges i ldp@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

At risk groups get flu jabs free

VALE AM, Jane Hutt, has pointed out the benefits of having a flu jab at a local chemist.

She said: "It is very convenient to have a flu jab in one of the many community pharmacies doing flu jabs this year."

"It means there is no need to block up busy GPs' surgeries and the availability of chemists in high streets is really helpful with many open at times convenient for people in work or out shopping on weekends. I encourage everyone to get a flu jab – and mine did not hurt a bit!"

Matthew Jones, a development manager with the Co-operative Pharmacy, said: "The flu vaccination is the most effective way of preventing seasonal flu and every time you head out to work this winter, you run the risk of catching it, so it is really important to protect yourself."

The three Barry pharmacies delivering NHS flu jabs free of charge for people in at risk groups are Boots and Co-operative in Holton Road, and Petersen's in Park Crescent. Appointments are not needed.

Cowbridge Senior Citizens' latest events

OUR trip to Brecon included a canal boat ride.

The October trip was a tremendous success because we were so fortunate to have a gloriously sunny day for our trip.

We arrived in time for coffee and a look around the town before our mid-day trip on the canal.

The autumn colours on the towpath's hedges as we drifted along were wonderful to see.

Refreshments were served on the boat – just to sustain us until we had a late lunch in Brecon.

We also had more time for shopping or just a walk around the town.

We returned to the coach at 4pm for our return home to Cowbridge.

Our next outing is a shopping trip to Bath, always a popular venue.

On November 12, leaving Geoffrey Ashe bus stop at 8:50am and the Town Hall at 9am.

The cost will be £15, but it will be reduced if we have a sufficient number of passengers to cover costs.

All are welcome, not restricted to members only, please contact me on 01446 775508 or Patricia Prothero on 01446 775097 to reserve seats.

Pay on the coach, so please bring change with you!

Our October meeting had a very interesting speaker, Mr Tony Bennett on 'Achievement in Later Life'.

It was very informative and helpful to all who came, and we are not restricted to only seniors in our meetings, all age groups are welcome.

Our meeting (in the Lesser Hall) will be on November 14 at 2pm, when we are delighted to have John Weavers, a keen local cyclist, to be our speaker.

We will also be taking final reservations for our Christmas lunch on December 19, at St Athan Golf Club (transport has been arranged).

Menus will be available for choices and a deposit of £5 per head will be needed in that meeting.

All are welcome to join us at any of our activities, but it is hoped that members' Christmas meals will have a subsidy (which I am currently negotiating!).

Please come to our next meeting to reserve your meal and pay the deposit, if possible, or ring me (01446 775508) to reserve a place.

Mavis Ashford, Chairman

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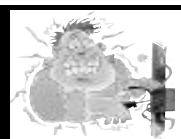
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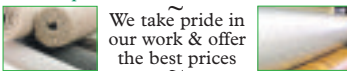


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O DAN ADRAN 119
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CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
(LLWYBYR CYHOEDDUS RHIF 7
LLANCARFAN)
GORCHYMYN GWYRO LLWYBYR
CYHOEDDUS 2013**

Ar 14 Hydref 2013, cadarnhaodd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg y Gorchymyn uchod.

Eiddaf y Gorchymyn fel y'i cadarnhawyd, fydd gwyr'n llywyb trosed cyhoeddus yn y modd a eglurwyd yn yr Atodiad isod ac a wellir ar tap y Gorchymyn.

Bydd copïau o'r Gorchymyn a gadarnhawyd a map y Gorchymyn i'w gweld yn rhad ac am ddim yn y cyfeirnod isod rhwng 9.00am a 4.00pm, yn ystod yr wythnos o 7 Tachwedd 2013 hyd 19 Rhagfyr 2013. Bydd copïau o'r map a'r Gorchymyn ar werth yma am £4.50 yr un.

Daw'r Gorchymyn hwn i rym ar 7 Tachwedd 2013. Serch hynny, os bydd unrhyw un sy'n tybio iddo gael cam, yn dymuno holl i'w gynhyrchu gilyddwyd y Gorchymyn neu unrhyw ddispariaeth ynddo, am nad yw o lewyl pwerau Deddf Prifysgrif, ymlau na chrydymffurfiwyd â golygon y Ddeddf hon reolodau a wneid o dani with gadarnhaw'r Gorchymyn, caiff yr unigolyn hwnnw wneud cais i'r Uchel Llyso dan baragraff 2 Atodiad 2 o'r Ddeddf dargr weithrediad paragraff 5 Atodiad 6, cyn pen 6 wythnos o ddyddiad cyhoeddi'r Rhybudd yn genral.

Dyddiedig 7 Tachwedd 2013

**Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Datblygu,
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**THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN
COUNCIL**

**NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION
OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
SECTION 119 HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN
COUNCIL
(PUBLIC PATH NO.7
LLANCARFAN)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION
ORDER 2013**

On the 14th day of October 2013 The Vale of Glamorgan Council confirmed the above Order.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the public footpath as set out in the Schedule and shown in the Order map.

A copy of the confirmed Order and Order map may be seen at the address below free of charge between 9.00am and 4.00pm on weekdays from 7th November 2013 until 19th December 2013. Copies of the Order and map may be bought here at a price of £4.50.

This Order comes into force on the 7th November 2013, but if any person aggrieved by the Order desires to question its validity or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the above Act, or on the ground that any requirement of that Act or any regulation made under it has not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he/she may, under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act, as applied by paragraph 5 of Schedule 5 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the date on which the Notice is first published make an application to the High Court.

Dated this 7th day of November 2013

**Director of Development Services
Dock Offices, Barry Dock, Barry, CF63 4RT**

Injury hit Phoenix face Blaenau Gwent

FORTUNATELY a sheltered Kay Field, Crumlin was the venue for this National League Division 1 match between Blaenau Gwent ladies and Pencoed Phoenix in autumnal surroundings.

Nevertheless, this brought little comfort to a Phoenix squad battling against an unprecedented injury list, and meeting a much changed Blaenau Gwent combination from the team defeated by 29 points to 10 some five weeks ago.

With the home side dominating possession in the opening half Phoenix players who did well were Hannah Brunskill at the lineout, Leanne Burnell, Amy Stevens (who was later forced from the field of play with what looked like another bad injury), and Jade Mullen in spasmodic Phoenix attacks, with Mullen free from Army activities putting in a number of big defensive hits!

The home side had used their possession well throughout the half with full back Weybrow getting two of their three first half tries.

Blaenau continued on the attack at the start of the second half and Phoenix full back Lauren Aitken did well to stop a home back row forward on the charge metres from her own line, before again popping up to clear her lines with a good 30 metre touch find.

Phoenix hit back with a superb try, blindside wing Burnell splitting the home midfield before the supporting Mel Clay put Mullen in possession and the centre raced away from 35 metres to score out wide.

Unfortunately for Phoenix they were to lose their own lineout in their 22 and with their defensive alignment caught out by this, conceded a fourth try. Phoenix then enjoyed their best period of the match with Becca Pope, Stevens, and Clay handling to almost work Burnell in at the corner flag.

Aitken then reduced the Blaenau lead with a brilliant solo effort from some 75 metres, initially retrieving a kick, before counter attacking and outpacing several home defenders down the left hand touchline for arguably the try of the match.

Phoenix captain Lowri Reeves, Katie Murphy and Natalie O'Shea were as competitive in the contact area as ever; however, with the loss of Murphy and Stevens to injury, Phoenix were unable to hold the strong finishing Blaenau side and succumbed to a final scoreline of 39-10.



ABOVE: Jade Mullen crosses for a try while **BELOW:** Natalie O'Shea battles her way through two Blaenau Gwent defenders. **PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK**



Young Osprey second row Charlotte Mundy and flanker Debra Evans were also competitive throughout for Phoenix.

Phoenix now have a break from league fixtures for regional rugby, and hopefully the regional aspirants within the squad will do well, and experience better luck with injury than of late.

TR

Dinas RFC sit on top of the league

AFTER last week's SWALEC Bowl game, attention returned to league action as Dinas Powis set off, albeit a little later than anticipated, on the relatively long journey to Hirwaun in the heads of the valleys.

Last year's match at the Recreation Ground had been a torrid affair for the Villagers who left it late to steal the win, and therefore there was some trepidation amongst the travelling supporters.

What should have been a relatively comfortable fixture, given the relative positions of each team in the league tables, was to be anything but.

Hirwaun got the proceedings underway and kicked off with the wind at their backs. The hosts started brightly and applied early pressure on Dinas, drawing numerous penalties within the first five minutes of the match.

After several attempts to cross the whitewash they opted to kick for goal and walked away with three points as a reward for their efforts.

The apocalyptic conditions were not conducive to the open expansive game of Dinas and it soon became apparent to all watching that the game would be won by the narrowest of margins.

With the ball akin to a bar of soap both teams struggled to find their rhythm. However, it was Hirwaun who managed to maintain their discipline as the official awarded numerable penalties

against the men from the Vale, handing both possession and territory to the opposition.

In the 30th minute Dinas prop Tom Patterson was shown a yellow card for allegedly handling in the ruck within the final 22 of the visitors' half.

A good scrum by Hirwaun almost proved fruitful as they forced their way over the try line only to be held up by some heroic defending. Having won the resulting scrum, the Villagers were able to clear their lines.

With just three minutes of the first half remaining, the home number 8 handed Dinas their first opportunity to go for goal as he was shown a yellow card for a swinging arm. Gavin Cooper's kick neatly bisected the posts and the half time score was level at 3-3.

After a stern halftime talk by the unimpressed Dinas coaching team, the visitors looked to assert themselves in the worsening conditions.

The restart from David Lloyd was deflected into touch by the receiving player and a free kick was awarded to the Villagers following an infringement at the ensuing lineout. Opting to take a quick 'tap and go', the ball was spun wide and, after three phases of play, found itself in the hands of Lewis Dunleavy, who scored a very welcome try. The conversion by Cooper saw Dinas take the lead for the first time in the match, Hirwaun 3, Dinas 10.

The official was not giving either team any opportunity to play advantage and consequently

the game descended into a torrid stop-start affair, punctuated with countless penalties and scrums. Neither side looked as though they would score.

Hirwaun were shown their second yellow card within 15 minutes of the restart but Dinas were unable to capitalise on the man advantage.

In fact it was the home team who would score next, as just minutes after returning to full strength, they crashed over in the corner for their first try of the match.

The conversion was missed which proved to be extremely lucky for the visitors as, after an extremely nervous final 10 minutes, the referee brought an end to a dire game in even worse conditions.

The weather had unquestionably played a significant part in keeping the scores low and, despite the win, there was a feeling that Dinas had dropped a valuable bonus point. As it transpired the team's close rivals Cambrian Welfare had suffered a rare defeat at the hands of fellow title challengers Treherbert.

Furthermore, Treherbert had prevented Cambrian from securing a losing bonus point, so consequently Dinas are now the only unbeaten team in Division 5 South Central, and regain the top spot, one point ahead of Treherbert who have played an additional game.

Dinas now have two weeks' respite due to the autumn internationals and will entertain Cefn Coed at the Common on November 23. **SW/MH**

ATHLETIC YOUTH BATTLE THROUGH THE CONDITIONS

BRIDGEND Athletic youth's sixth league fixture was a potentially difficult away game at Bonymaen.

The game was played in horrendous conditions with heavy showers and a gale force wind blowing straight down the exposed pitch, with Bridgend Athletic playing with the wind in the first half.

So strong was the wind that it soon became clear that a kicking game would not work, either with or against this wind and both teams opted to keep the ball in hand. Even this proved difficult and passing had to be kept to short range.

The Athletic had the best of the early exchanges with back row forwards Lestyn Merriman and captain Rory Thomas running off the back of the set pieces at every opportunity and applying pressure on their opponents.

Despite numerous errors from both sides, the Athletic kept Bonymaen in their own half for long periods and with the scrum looking strong and the Athletic pack willing to take the game to their opponents the pressure eventually had to tell and after a period of controlled rucks and mauls the

excellent Lestyn Merriman forced his way over on 12 minutes for the Athletic's first try.

Full back Liam Phillips went narrowly wide with the conversion to make the score 5-0 to the Athletic.

From the restart Bonymaen came straight back at the Athletic and showed they were not going to lie down and started to put together some good forward charges with their big front row prominent.

Indeed this forward work was rewarded on 17 minutes when after a period of pressure they levelled the score with an unconverted try to make the score 5-5.

This gave the Swansea side a big lift and they began to use their big forwards more and more.

The Athletic's defence was excellent, however, with Curtis Daniel, Hywel Cosby and Lloyd Griffiths making some big tackles. The lineout was also looking good with second row Matthew Bennett not only taking his own ball but stealing a number of Bonymaen's throw-ins.

The Athletic were awarded a penalty on 25 minutes but full back Phillips again went narrowly wide.

The first half ended at 5-5 and the Athletic would turn into the wind

for what was going to be a tough half of rugby.

The second period started as the first had ended with both teams using their forwards to try and batter a way forward, with both sets of backs defending for their lives in the extreme conditions.

Eventually Bonymaen youth found some field position and after the Athletic infringed at the breakdown, they went ahead with a well taken penalty kick from 30 metres to take the score to 8-5 to Bonymaen.

This again gave the Swansea side a lift but the Athletic's defence was excellent.

The coaches began to use the very strong bench to good effect and to bring some fresh legs on to battle into the howling gale with Ben Jones coming on at full back for Liam Phillips, Jake Williams at scrum half for Tom McCardle and Craig Lewis at No. 10 for Josh Carey.

In the forwards Geraint Lang came on for Curtis Daniel, Zach Evans for George Carter, Ellis James for Matthew Bennett and Cian House for Scott Cusack.

Bridgend Athletic's pack was slowly beginning to get on top of the Bonymaen eight and with scrum half Jake Williams controlling

things around the base of the scrum, there followed one of the best periods of play of the entire match when the Athletic rolled a series of rucks and mauls fully 70 metres.

After some heroic play the Athletic crashed over the Bonymaen line with five minutes to go, only to see the referee rule that the ball had been held up.

By this time the Athletic pack were not going to be denied and from the attacking scrum the ball was taking into another rolling maul and eventually replacement back row forward Geraint Lang got over for what would prove to be the winning score.

The conversion went wide to take the score to 10-8 to Bridgend Athletic, and two minutes later the referee blew the whistle for what must be the toughest game so far this season.

The coaches could not praise the 23 man squad highly enough in what was a game where team spirit was tested to the limits and the Athletic showed just how this group of players have developed this season.

The hard work will now continue next week in preparation for the District Cup match next week when Brynecethin travel to Newbridge Fields. **MP**



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Don't get caught out this winter! Why should I fit winter tyres?

More than half of UK motorists admit feeling less safe driving in the winter, yet many of us do little to prepare our cars for the colder weather. Research commissioned by TyreSafe, the UK's leading tyre safety organisation, found the biggest worry for drivers in the winter is that they are more likely to have an accident as the roads feel more slippery.

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Last year, drivers struggled without winter tyres

- 54% of drivers said they felt less safe when driving in the winter.
- 45% of drivers said their biggest fear about driving in the winter was that they were more likely to have an accident as the roads felt more slippery.
- 1 in 3 drivers skidded on Britain's roads.
- 15% were involved in, or witnessed, an accident.
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- 1 in 6 drivers had to abandon their journey.

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STUDENTS COMPETE IN WELSH OPEN



ABOVE: Thomas Haysham, Halford. Cody Jacobsen, Maddison Allen, and Cian Allen.

THE Cadoxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do took a small contingent of new and experienced competitors to Aberdare to compete the Welsh Open tournament hosted by Rob Taylor.

The event started with traditional forms with a clean sweep for the Cadoxton School; Cody Jacobsen took first place, and Cian Allen taking second and third went to Maddison Allen.

Once the traditional forms were completed all the Point and Continuous Sparring sections got under way.

In the Point Sparring Cody Jacobsen, Maddison Allen took second place in their respective categories, while Cian Allen and Bradley Halford took third place.

In the Continuous Sparring sections, Cody Jacobsen came away with first place, Bradley Halford second and Maddison Allen third.

Thomas Haysham was entered into both the point and continuous sparring categories, but his coach Ron Thomas pulled him out with an injury as the following week he would be competing at the European games being held in Jersey.

For further information on Cadoxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do, telephone (01446) 406372.

Barrivale bridge club results



Helen Jordan & Judith Owen, winners of the Margaret Calder Cup (ladies' pairs).



Mick Green & Denis Mottram, winners of the Joanne Green Plate (men's pairs).

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club, October 29:

1st Noelle Bond & Mark Roderick 65%; 2nd Irene Thomas & Joan Jenkins 61.67%; 3rd Denis Mottram & Mike Close 58.75%. Helen Jordan & Judith Owen won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale; if you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

RT

BRIDGEND SPORTS under-8s had two matches arranged on Sunday.

Welcoming Kenfig Hill and Mountain Ash at home, there was a nice turnout of players again this week with a squad of 11 - Nathaniel, Callum, Tom, Kian, Joel, McKenzie, Tyron, Iestyn, Dylan, Ruben and Cian.

The first game was against Kenfig Hill and Sports began the game full of beans and spirit. Their hard work at training has really started to show and their recent win seemed to give them the confidence they needed.

Sports were superb with their tagging this week and it seemed Kenfig Hill struggled to get past Sports defence. The first try of the game came from Tom for the Sports.

Kenfig Hill managed to get through the Sports defence and equalise the score to 1-1, which is how it finished.

The second game was against Mountain Ash and as the game began Sports started to show some signs of tiredness and their tagging didn't seem as sharp as it had in the previous game.

Mountain Ash had some quick players who were able to use the Sports tiredness to their advantage and break through the Sports defence and began to

take the lead scoring two tries in quick succession.

Dylan then scored three tries for the Sports to bring the score to 3-2 and the Sports pulled up their socks and began to tighten up their defence and sharpen up their tagging. Mountain Ash then retaliated and scored another two tries, bringing the score to 4-3 to Mountain Ash.

Callum scored a try for Sports and again Mountain Ash retaliated scoring their fifth try. Callum scored another try which was then followed by a try by Joel bringing the score to 6-5 to Sports.

In both games there was some outstanding tagging, passing and tries from Sports and plenty of missed opportunities. The hard work the team and coaches have put in this season is really starting to show in their games.

MVP went to Dylan Morgan for his constant tagging, great running and well-taken tries.

UNDER-9S

The under-9s hosted Kenfig Hill and Mountain Ash in a round robin, but lost both games, 4-1 to Kenfig Hill and 7-5 to Mountain Ash.

In the first game, Kenfig Hill ran in a try from the start and kept going on from there. The Mules showed great defence, pushing the Sports back, forcing handling errors, which in

turn caused the ball to be turned over for them to score again, giving them a 2-0 half-time lead.

Although the second half seemed a bit better, with a great try from Shea, Kenfig Hill ran in two more tries to win the half 2-1.

Next was the unbeaten Mountain Ash. The away side again scored from the start, but this time the Sports regrouped and pulled one back.

Mountain Ash then powered their way over again to make it 2-1. The Sports restarted and after some great phases of play scored on half-time to make the score 2-2.

The second half was a tough battle, with both sides producing some big tackles and some great tries, but in the end Mountain Ash proved too powerful and took the half 5-3.

Again this week the under-9s looked lethargic in the first game, showing no urgency until the game was lost.

The second game, although lost 7-5, showed some great determination and competed with a very big Mountain Ash side and the victory could have gone to either side.

Also pleasing was the boys starting to pass the ball and play as a team. The use of Oliver this week as a designated scrum half seemed to have paid off and gives us something else to work on in training.

Squad: Fynn, Sam B. Oliver, Tristan, Shea, McKenzie, Max Harris, Max Hemsley, Dan Hughes, Sam Jones, Finley Loundes, Morgan Palethorpe, Kurtis and Joe. Try scorers: McKenzie (3), Shea (3).

UNDER-10S

The under-10s welcomed Kenfig Hill to Newbridge Fields on a blustery Sunday morning.

Sports started strongly and worked their way up to Kenfig's try line. Some quick passing from the ruck allowed Jack space to outstrip the cover defence to score the first try. This was converted by Owain.

Kenfig showed a similar ambition to spread the ball wide and quickly equalized. Strong running from Mac allowed him to break through

Kenfig's defence, scoring a try, with a conversion by Josh. Although Sports had started well, for the rest of the first half some weak tackling allowed Kenfig Hill to score three tries and at half-time the score was 14-28.

The start of the second half was a similar story where Kenfig Hill dominated the ruck area and scored two further tries.

Sports showed their resolve and with far more commitment to tackling were able to spread the ball to James, who was able to dance through the defence and score, which was again converted by Owain.

After a good period of play by Sports James found himself in space and eluded the Kenfig tacklers to score. A good effort against tough opposition, the final score was 40-28.

MVP goes to Oliver Gardner for his tackling, his clearance kick and commitment in following up.

Team: Owain Peters, Morgan Rees, Rhys McNally, Rhys Vaughan, Mac Francis, Cullen Lloynton, Tom Gardner, Rory Lee, James Murray, William Littlewood, Joshua Wilkinson, Luke Yates, Will Price, Jack Davies, Rhys Chick, Archie Faulkner-Lerway and Oliver Gardner.

UNDER-11S

In the first half, Sports dominated right from a kick off against Kenfig Hill, and the first try, scored by Dafydd, was the result of a team effort, as the boys put into effect what they have been practising over and over again.

Dafydd also converted ensuring that Bridgend were seven points up within the first couple of minutes.

Although Kenfig managed to pull the scores back the Sports dominated the first half by continuing to play as a team, constantly passing and playing expansive rugby. Tries by Tomos (2), Dafydd and Xander ensured that the score was Sports 35, Kenfig Hill 7 at half-time.

Kenfig Hill are also known as the Mules and like the animal the team were stubborn in not giving in. The second half started and Kenfig came out attacking from the

kick off and dominated the second half.

Sports were on the defensive and the team lost the composure and the concentration it showed in the first half.

It was only due to some key defending and some unlucky errors that Kenfig were unable to level the scores, but from nowhere Sports managed to score a try and secure the win.

Captain of the team was Jack and man of match went to Tomos because of his good rucking and passing.

UNDER-14S

The Sports had a tough day at the office against a very accomplished and ruthless Cowbridge side, losing 67-5. The visitors put on an impressive display of rugby and proved to be too strong for the Sports.

Cowbridge scored 11 tries during the match and they started the game off in fine fashion by scoring an early try, which certainly set the tone for the match.

They then went on to score a further five tries where they demonstrated a good skillset by scoring some strong, skilful and quick tries.

In no time at all the Sports were 36-0 down but they showed good effort when they scored a try of their own through scrum half Zak Hemsley who picked the ball up off a ruck and made a dashing run to crash over the line.

Cowbridge then scored another try which made the half-time score 41-5 to Cowbridge.

The second half once again saw Cowbridge score a number of tries. Many of their tries were from a long distance and the Sports just couldn't cope with the physical Cowbridge side.

Cowbridge then capped the game off in style when one of their players scored a great individual try, making several hand-offs in the process.

Overall the Sports didn't lose the game because of a lack of effort, they lost it as Cowbridge were far superior in all areas; hopefully they can get back to winning ways next week.

Cefn Riders battle through weather to win

CEFN RIDERS travelled to Baglan for a cup game due to the cancellation of their game the week before.

Due to the weather the game was delayed by 30 minutes as the referee was held up on the way to the game. The start of the game saw the rain driving down onto the pitch with severe winds, but that didn't faze the visitors as the Cefn team took the game to the home side.

The first 20 minutes showed that Baglan were up for the fight, challenging for every scrap of ball, and also doing pretty well with their pick and drive game.

At this time Cefn had their work cut out having to work extra hard in the loose to secure any ball; then, just at the turn of the half, the Riders produced some magic with a cracking try from full back Rob Curl, converted by Tom Carpenter.

At the interval the Riders coaches gave some stern words to the team as the Riders were playing against gale force winds and lashing

rain.

At the kick off the Cefn team went to town, dominating the much bigger Baglan pack, as the Riders' back line produced some fantastic rugby for the conditions.

Next to cross the line was winger Dan Harris, having been put into space by Stu Curl. By now Baglan were showing signs of fatigue by the constant pressure being put on them by the Riders.

The next try was set up by centre Owen Davies and finished off by Rob Curl.

Cefn were now firmly in the driving seat, out-playing the opposition, and there was one more try scorer, veteran coach Geraint Carpenter, who showed his experience on the field by guiding the forwards on.

There were some outstanding performances from Adam Ricketts, Rhys Pilliner, veteran Geraint Carpenter and stand-in captain Chris Bruno, who lead his side to a great win in dreadful conditions, the final score 29-3 to the Riders.

ME

Bridgend bridge club results

ON Wednesday, October 30, the clear winners were Geoff Barnes and Peter Bugden, who have become a force to be reckoned with.

Second were Irene Thomas and Graham Jones and third John Beard and Glyn Williams.

There were no Halloween horror stories on Thursday in the afternoon gentle duplicate, with the best placed improver being Norma Phinnemore, who won, partnered by John Henson, closely followed by V. Irene Thomas and Dilys Bowser, with Stuart Davis and Colin Lewis in third spot.

Remember that all are welcome to attend these Thursday afternoon ses-

sions in Noltan Church Hall, where tuition is followed by supervised play.

For further information please contact either Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968 or John Evans on 01656 880372, or visit the club website.

Friday's session was divided into North/South and East/West sections, with Bill Turner and Dennis Mottram winning the former, followed by Vida Halford and Glyn Williams, with Liam Sheridan and Alan Williams third.

The East/West section was convincingly won by John Henson and Terry Dolan with an impressive 70 per cent score, with Emer Disley and John Whately second and Graham Jones and Irene Thomas third.

DN

Llantwit Major Cavaliers hold presentation evening



Gymnasts are on top form!



Caitlin Meadows.



Catrin Long and Bethan Wryde.

BARRY YMCA gymnasts put in some great performances at the recent South Central Novice Championships.

Competing against gymnasts from clubs in the counties of Bridgend, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taff and the Vale, the Barry gymnasts performed routines on vault, bars, beam and floor.

In the 8/9 years category Bria Karim became the vault champion and also gained a sixth place ribbon on floor. Her team mate Evie Wong gained a third place on bars while the team of Bria, Evie, Celyn Powell, Sophia Foscolo and Tamzin Williams gained 4th place ribbons.

The 10/11 years team of Chloe Gabb, Kelsey Cross, Tesni Gardiner and Caitlin Meadows gained bronze medals and there was also individual success in this age group for the Barry gymnasts.

Tesni placed second on floor and gained a fifth place ribbon on bars, while Kelsey placed third place on bars. Chloe also gained an individual ribbon placing 5th on floor while Caitlin placed fourth on bars and fourth overall, and Seren Williams placed seventh on beam.

The older gymnasts from the club also had success. In the 12/13 years category the team of Catrin Long, Ellice Stockford and Seren Mirza-Davies climbed onto the podium in second position.

All three had individual success with Ellice placing 1st on vault, gained a sixth place ribbon on bars and sixth overall. Catrin placed fifth on beam, fourth on bars and fifth overall while Seren placed second on bars and seventh overall.

Bethan Wride represented Barry in the 14+ years competition. Only competing in her second

four piece competition Bethan gained a fourth place ribbon for her beautiful floor, placed fifth on beam and sixth overall.

Due to their strong overall performances Catrin Long, Caitlin Meadows and Bethan Wride all gained selection to represent the area at the Welsh finals.

In the 10/11 years category Caitlin placed second in Wales on vault as did her clubmate Catrin in the 12/13 years event. Bethan also climbed onto the podium gaining a bronze medal on floor.

All three climbed onto the podium for a second time when Catrin and Bethan helped their respective age group teams to the silver medal and Caitlin assisted the 10/11 years team to bronze.

Well done to all gymnasts and thanks as always to the dedicated coaches and judges at Barry YMCA Gymnastics Club - Aimee, Anne, Caitlin, Charlotte, Leanne, Olivia, Rachel, Kiera and Karen.

For further information regarding the opportunities available at Barry YMCA Gymnastics club please call 01446 724001.

The club will shortly be holding an open session for gymnasts demonstrating the potential and desire to become competitive gymnasts. To register for this session please contact the above number to place your details on the list.

KD



LLANTWIT MAJOR Cavaliers recently held their end-of-season presentation night at the Boverton Castle. A lovely meal was served and the night was enjoyed by all.



Vale Resort offers new technology – but will golfers be as smart as their phones?

NEW 3D technology, with which golfers can benefit from a bird's-eye view of the course before heading out to play, is the latest addition to the golfing facilities at the Vale Resort in Hensol.

The 3D Flyover technology is used by broadcasters such as Sky Sports HD and Matchroom Sport and top tournaments including the PGA EuroPro Tour.

Golfers can watch the journey to the green through aerial shots of each hole, offering insight on how the course should be best played, before teeing off. The flyovers can be watched on the Vale Resort's website or at the Resort's pro shop.

Players tackling the Vale Resort's Wales National Course and Lake Course can also benefit from the 3D-GPS smart phone app with pin-positioning technology. This enables golfers to calculate their distance to the front, middle and back of the green, so they know what club to use.

The resort's GPS app also has a digital guide to playing both of the courses and access to the 3D Golf Flyover of each hole. The app and its GPS technology is also available on fixed screens secured to the resort's golf buggies.

"This technology revolutionises how golfers can prepare before head-



ing out to play a round on either of our championship courses," said the Vale Resort's golf manager Clive Coombes.

"We are the first club in Wales to have the full system installed – not only the Golf Flyover technology and the GPS app but access to the system in our golf buggies and on screens at the resort."

"Golf Flyovers are used in some of the world's biggest venues and by the biggest broadcasters in our industry, and it's a fantastic addition to the facilities we already offer at the resort."

"Our golfers can now see hole-by-hole what's on offer, be it the mixture of wide and narrow fairways, water features or wooded areas – a unique system of technology which sets the stage for anyone coming to visit us," he added.

Junior netball team has fine start to season

BARRY netball team Red Dragon Juniors have had an exceptional start to the netball season with the under-13 squad and under-11 squad winning all their opening games in the Cardiff and Vale Junior Netball League.

The under-10 have joined the league this year and played well in their first matches against older and more experienced opponents.

The club is now expanding to include netball mini tots and this will encourage chil-

dren aged five to eight to take part in the sport and learn new basic skills, while making great new friends.

The squads are coached by former international Melanie Hellerman who is currently a director of Welsh Netball and the Cardiff and District Area Coach (UKCC Level 2), along with Sharron Allred founder of Red Dragons Senior (UKCC Level 1) and Jo (UKCC Level 1).

If you have a daughter aged five to 13 who would like to join our team, contact Melanie on 077936 52300.

MH

Bridge Club results

SULLY Bridge Club results on Monday, October 28 were as follows:

North/South – First, Trish Tracy and Mike Hurst (64.39 per cent); second, Helen Jordan and Marjorie Morgan, 58.52; third, Peter Millar and Mark Roderick, 56.63.

East/West – First, Anne Macdougall and Anne Hilary Jones, 62.34; second, Sean Macdougall and Italo Basiletti, 62.12; third, Celia Thomas and Huw Thomas, 56.82.

Wednesday, October 30: North/South – First, Peter Millar and Trish Tracy, 71.17; second, Lona Thomas and Joy Secular, 60.59; third, Judy Collins and Janet Cunningham, 60.36.

East/West – First, Anne Johns and Bunty Wiseman, 70.87; second, Anne Macdougall and Anne Hilary Jones, 70.66; third, Celia Thomas and Huw Thomas, 57.02.

STUDENTS SHINE AT CHAMPIONSHIPS



ON Sunday October 28, the Tae Kwon Do schools of Rhose and Llantwit Major competed in the Welsh closed championships.

The event was held at the Newport University campus Caerleon, with over 250 competitors from all over Wales.

Our students fought hard on the day with Ashton Curnick and Rhys Doel shining in the lightweight ranks, both winning first in green belt and red belt divisions, taking home gold medals.

Harry Burningham came a

close second for the silver medal in the lightweight red belt division; we also had Jake Hayvick competing at his first tournament, winning his first match to go out in the second round (well done Jake!) and a hard fought round for Josh Edwards, who narrowly missed out!

The team event brought success with Menna Burningham placing second in her team and Josh Edwards, Harri Burningham and Rhye Doel placing third.

Our newcomers to the competition circuit showed courage on all levels. Sean Edwards and Zac Hayvick both fought in the tiny tot

division (under four foot) and Lynne Doel of Rhose, who runs her own childcare business, fought in the adult ladies' red belt division.

Lynne, who's only a yellow belt, fought in the higher ranks on the day - well done!

It was a good day for the clubs, whose success and hard work continue to grow, well done from all our team, keep chasing those medals!

For more information on our team or classes please visit jstkd.co.uk or call 07711 234500. EJS

Local vaulters' success



THE English Vaulting Championships were held at the Unicorn Centre Stow in the Wold on Saturday, October 26.

Rhi Hill from Cowbridge landed first place in the pre-novice individual and Carys Morgan, a Liverpool veterinary student from Church Village, came in first place in the bronze section of the senior individual; both performed in canter.

It was the first time competing for these young vaulters, who took third place with their Dalmatian routine in the 'walk class'.

CR

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2011 61 Reg MINI One Countryman	Bright Yellow, Cosmos Black Cloth, Silver Alloys, Pepper Pack	15k	£12,850
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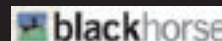
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Perfect performance from Bridgend Athletic

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC defied the gale force winds and frequent showers at the top of the Swansea mountain to turn in a four try bonus point performance, defeating Bonymaen 24-0.

Everything that was wrong in the previous week's performance was put right with full commitment and tackling to keep a clean sheet on the day.

The Athletic were ahead within 30 seconds. Outside half Steven Lewis kicked off and when Bonymaen attempted to kick the ball upfield, he was on hand to charge down and re-gather possession to cross under the posts. His conversion meant the Athletic were seven points ahead with only Lewis touching the ball from their side.

The Athletic kept the momentum going exerting a stranglehold on the game. The back row of Ben Howe, Jonathon Jones and captain Sean Williams were a potent

force in both attack and defence. They were all involved in the second Athletic try when a tap penalty 30 metres out saw Williams round off a bout of interpassing with a try wide out.

Scrum half Aled Thomas was keeping the home side defence on his toes, and despite the conditions his partner Lewis was keeping ball in hand, well supported by centres Jonathon Phillips and Marc Bennett, or switching the play inside to ball carrying locks Tom Penry- Ellis and Griff Davies.

Phillips made a break from inside his own half and perhaps should have fed wing Nick Hinton. However, the Athletic pack was on hand to carry on the move and lay siege to the Bonymaen line.

The whole front row of Matt Muir, Dan Vella and Rod Jones had snipes at the try line before finally lock Griff Davies broke the resistance with a try wide out. This gave the Athletic a 17-0 lead which was held until halftime despite a yellow card for wing Lloyd

Rogers.

The Athletic have had a malaise of slow restarts to second halves and have been very vulnerable in this period this season. However, on this occasion they started the second half in fine style.

Full back Josh White gave them an excellent platform deep inside the Bonymaen 22 with a well-judged kick in the gale force wind. From a five metre line out Williams gathered the ball and the drive resulted in Howe being rewarded for an excellent performance with a try wide out.

Lewis, kicking into the teeth of the gale, landed an excellent touchline conversion of the bonus point try.

Bonymaen were now showing indiscipline although great spirit and a succession of yellow cards saw them fighting a real uphill battle.

However their cause was helped by passive scrummages as they ran out of front row cover. This prevented the Athletic driving home the advantage Muir, Vella and Jones already had exerted in the front row.

Only on two occasions did Bonymaen threaten in the second half and excellent cover tackles by Phillips and Howe snuffed out the threat. All the squad, including replacement prop Liam Griffin, making a welcome return after eight months sidelined with a



Ben Howe tries to offload as Aled Thomas supports.
PICTURE BY KERRY FOTHERGILL

knee injury, fellow prop Wayne Fooks, Ben Thomas and Rhys Jones, put in an excellent shift in the most testing of conditions.

The win was a marvellous confidence booster for the Athletic with a break for the autumn internationals until November 23 when they entertain third placed north Wales side RGC 1404.

Congratulations are in place to the Apsee cousins, No 8 Dan and prop Rhodri, who represented Malta in a World Cup qualifying win in Lithuania.

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC 2ND XV 79 MAESTEG CELTIC 2ND XV 5
The Athletic 2nd XV point machine marched on defying treacherous

playing conditions with a 13 try, 79-5 demolition of Maesteg Celtic in a District League game.

They have now won all eight fixtures this season racking up 329 points and 50 tries.

Wings Dan Howells and William Williams each scored a try hat trick – with Williams now enjoying seven tries this campaign.

However leading try scorer is Harry Griffiths whose try brace put him one ahead of Williams with eight this campaign.

Other try scorers were half backs Stuart Kenny and Tom Cole, full back Nick Jones and prop Lewis Davies and No 8 Rob Davies; Cole converted five of the tries with single conversions for the Jones boys, Nick and Scott. **AB**



Aaron Halse breaks through the tackles.
PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK

Valuable win for Pencoed

PENCOED gained a valuable try bonus point in this fourth tries to one, 29-10, victory over Morriston at the Recreation Ground.

The match opened with a high swirling cross wind towards the clubhouse end favouring the visitors.

Pencoed hooker Ieuan Watkins was prominent in the early stages with his forceful driving play, before flanker Tom Burke made the first clean break of the afternoon, the pass unfortunately going to ground in the difficult conditions.

Pencoed opened the scoring after 15 minutes following a move initiated by outside half Marc Davies, centre Lloyd Bargery put clean through the Morriston midfield before supporting full back Tom Cross released wing Glen Hiscocks who raced away from 30 metres to score at the posts; Davies converted.

Bargery was giving the visitors trouble with his aggressive running and the home side almost got a second try, back row forward Aaron Halse squeezed out in the dead ball area in the act of scoring.

Pencoed then suffered an injury blow with young Adam Williams playing at scrum half, stretchered off, the ambulance response excellent.

Chris Shill opened the visitors' account with a penalty goal before Pencoed increased their lead with Davies and Bargery combining for the centre to cut through from 22 metres to score



Glen Hiscocks kicks ahead.

under the posts, Davies adding the extras.

Pencoed then picked up a yellow card with Cross moving to emergency scrum half before Liam Halse did well fielding a high kick in the swirling conditions on the home 22 before clearing to halfway.

Pencoed then suffered a further injury blow with skipper and playmaker Davies forced from the field of play with a rib injury, Pencoed's injury jinx once again surfacing.

Pencoed were not deterred however, and got their third try approaching the interval, Halse at No 8 capitalising on a dominant Pencoed scrum to get the touchdown, and the home side led 19-3 at the break.

Pencoed created several chances early in the second half with three-quarter Rhys Watkins playing in the back row

denied a score at the posts for a previous scrumage offence.

With the second half minutes ticking away the Pencoed support were anxiously awaiting a bonus point try, and it was player-coach Halse who calmed the nerves, capitalizing on a loose Morriston pass to dive over for the all important score, Cross converting.

This was followed, to the spectators' amusement, by Pencoed coach Steve Rees chasing the blown away contents of the first aid bag across an unoccupied part of the pitch! Fun over, the visitors got a deserved late consolation try through Gareth Thomas, Shill adding the conversion, for a match scoreline of 29-10.

Hooker Ieuan Watkins was chosen as Pencoed man of the match with centre Lloyd Bargery also in the reckoning.

Pencoed will resume Division 3 South West League action at Bryncoch on November 23 following the South Africa, Argentina, and Tonga autumn internationals.

Pencoed RFC host a 'past and present players reunion' on Friday, November 29, the eve of the Australia international, and would be delighted to see in particular past players in attendance. The evening from 7pm will feature comedian Lenny Dee, and food will be provided.

TR



Tom Cole surges away for the second team.
PICTURE BY GLENNSPORTS

Bridgend boy stars in Rugby World Cup

WALES' second row forward Ben Evans, a former Brynteg Comprehensive pupil, has been named in the 'Team of the Week' for round one of the Rugby League World Cup.

His inclusion, the only one from the home nations, comes after an outstanding performance where he scored a try in Wales' 32-16 defeat by Italy at the Millennium Stadium.

New Zealand led the way with three players after they beat Samoa 42-24 in their opening match.

Evans, who was man of the match at the Millennium Stadium

eight years ago when he helped Brynteg Comprehensive win the year-7 Champion Schools Final, said: "You always have dreams of playing for your country in front of such a big crowd. I was over the moon when I scored, but I would have given that up for a win."

"It's been a long time since I played at the Millennium Stadium for Brynteg in the curtain raiser to the Challenge Cup Final and that's where rugby league started for me. "To go back there and play for Wales in a World Cup opening day at the Millennium Stadium just 20 minutes from where I was born is a fairytale. You really couldn't write about it."

BRIDGEND men's hockey team lined up against their strongest opposition to date, league leaders Bath City, who had won 16-0 the week before.

Bridgend set out defensively and weathered the storm both on and off the pitch, keeping at bay eight first half short corners.

However, the ball was unfortunately deflected into the Bridgend goal by a defender. Bridgend equalised before halftime through a great strike from captain Dave Knight.

Bridgend took the lead early in the second half through James Griffiths, but despite keeping out a further seven short corners, and keeper Adam Hawas making incredible saves, Bridgend succumbed to the pressure, holding Bath to their closest game of the season so far, albeit losing 4-2.

Bridgend's development XI continued their winning ways with an emphatic 8-1 win over an experienced Whitchurch side, increasing their 5-0 halftime lead to end comfortable winners.

An excellent team performance, demonstrating that swift and accurate passing creates chances, resulted in two more goals being added to the result.

Bridgend ladies came out 6-0 winners against Penarth thirds

Louise Jones (2), Sian Rosser (2), Jo Poupon and Rhian Jenkins were the scorers and man of match was Charly Morris; newcomer Rhian Jenkins played excellent hockey.

The ladies 2nd team were defeated 3-0 by Cardiff University.

LOCAL HOCKEY TEAMS IN ACTION

In wet and windy (almost hurricane!) conditions, the 2nds did well to come away with a 3-0 loss, as the students were aggressive attacking and Bridgend did well to keep them at bay.

There was excellent play from key second team players Megan Duncombe, Bethan Johnson and Brogan Thomas, to name a few.

The ladies first team were then determined from the start to show Pembroke that they wanted the win in their cup game, with fast pace passing resulting in three goals in quick succession from Louise Jones, Rhian Jenkins and Jo Poupon.

Good defending from Liz Pearce, Justine Crosby and Meryl Maunder kept the opposition out, and although Pembroke tried to get back in the game, but Bridgend were having none of it and worked as a team, chasing everything, for a final score of 7-1. **Bridgend men, keen to get their cup campaign off to a winning start against Swansea City, started strongly.**

With two goals from Nick Anthony, a third goal came from Dave Allen at an acute angle. Nick then completed his hat trick before halftime.

The second half was a far more dour affair, with Bridgend having to defend very deep in their own half on occasions; however further goals came from Jon Rubery and another from Dave Allen.

Swansea got a late consolation, however their fate was already sealed. **EP**



Lloyd Bargery squeezes through the Morriston defence.



GEM sport

After the off-field turmoil over who governs Europe.... Springboks are the Welsh team's big game focus



Picture by Huw
Evans Agency

IN 1974, the then Prime Minister, Edward Heath, famously ended weeks of conflict with the trades unions by putting the case for the status quo to the public's vote – with the slogan 'WHO GOVERNS BRITAIN?' – a miscalculation that rebounded in a hung Parliament and his eventual replacement by bitter leadership rival, Margaret Thatcher.

While the worlds of politics and sport as yet, thankfully, converge on only rare occasions (a notable example being the London Olympics) there is, nevertheless, a certain parallel to be drawn in the very public acrimony over the future of Europe's Heineken Cup that has threatened rugby union's equivalent of civil war – and has seemed to be less about the notion of 'fairness' than a naked struggle for

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

power and control of a large chunk of the professional game in the northern hemisphere.

Many have accepted the need for reform and restructuring, to correct anomalies in the qualification system for European competition, and expressed some sympathy with the English Premiership and French league clubs, who also demanded a more equitable three-way split of financial proceeds with the Rabo Direct Pro 12 of Wales, Ireland, Scotland and Italy, than the prevailing 48%-52%.

However, what might have been reasonable grounds for negotiation soon became evident as nothing less than an Anglo-French *putsch*, designed to break away from the ERC's Heineken Cup altogether and replace it with their own Rugby Champions Cup; underwritten by a fat TV contract with BT Sport (in preference to current Heineken broadcaster, Sky).

At the same time, they invited the Pro 12 clubs to join "if they so wished", thus effectively sidelining the national unions, who were not prepared to sanction the move (apart from the RFU, who hovered nervously on the fence).

The war of words went on apace, with the FFR (Federation Francaise de Rugby) describing the new tournament as "irrelevant and inappropriate".

Meanwhile, the French league clubs' spokesman Paul Goze was insisting that "the Heineken Cup is dead" – as they would not take part in a European competition without the English clubs, who would henceforth be contracted to BT Sport.

The English clubs had bluntly declared that "next year there will be a Rugby Champions Cup – or there will be nothing", which clearly left little room for manoeuvre.

The situation escalated when the four cash-strapped Welsh regions, fearing a disastrous loss of revenue, ignored WRU warnings and came out in favour of the rival European competition, lured by the promise of improved financial rewards.

Since then, it appears the warring parties have drawn closer together, but at the time of writing it is still not clear if the fundamental question of who governs European rugby in the long run has been fully answered. (Mind you, unlike Edward Heath's 'who governs?' question in 1974, there is no chance of it being put to the rugby public's vote!)

Some very harsh things have been said and one can only hope that the fallout will have done no lasting damage to European relations.

At least attention now shifts to the place that really matters – the field of play – and for Wales, this means the autumn internationals and, more immediately, the renewal of hostilities with South Africa, who pipped them by just one point (17-16), when last they met two years ago at the Rugby World Cup in New Zealand.

While displays in the RWC and, more recently, the epic 30-3 win over England in the Six Nations earlier this year, have put a spring in the step of Welsh rugby, giving rise to renewed hope that the national team under Warren Gatland really has turned an important corner in terms of long-sought consistency, there can be no doubting the huge test that lies ahead at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff on Saturday.

After all, the Welsh dragon has lost all but one of its 26 clashes (with one match drawn) against the Springboks, since they first met 107 years ago, on December 1, 1906 at St Helens, Swansea, going down 0-11.

Wales lost the next four in a row by narrow margins – before the gap between the two began to widen in 1995, with a 40-11 defeat for the tourists at Eden Park, Johannesburg.

Worse was to follow three years later, on June 27, 1998, with that infamous horror show at Loftus Versfeld, Pretoria, when rampant Springboks ran in 15 tries, to overwhelm Wales by 96-13 – as the jeering crowd cried out for more. Amazingly, just one year later, a heroic Wales team gained revenge with their first, and only, victory, 28-19, over the stunned Springboks at a half-completed new Millennium Stadium.

South African superiority was re-established in 2004 with another hefty 53-19 win, but the gap truly began to narrow in new head coach Gatland's first Grand Slam year, 2008, when battling Wales were edged out 15-20 at the Millennium Stadium.

The encouraging, but frustrating trend has continued – with only a handful of points separating them – the one-point margin at RWC 2011 following the four-point (25-29) deficit at the Millennium Stadium in 2010, on the last autumn occasion the two teams met in Cardiff.

The overall statistics may not make comfortable reading, with South Africa winning 24 out

So near and yet so far...again!

The last time the two teams met in the World Cup, South Africa scraped a one-point win over impressive Wales. Revenge would be sweet on Saturday, as the men in red strive for that elusive southern hemisphere scalp.

of the 26 matches and rattling up a total of 715 points to Wales' 367.

However, there is a new spirit abroad in this confident young Welsh squad, and while no-one underestimates the challenge they face from arguably the second best team in the world, it surely cannot be long now before they start to accumulate those coveted southern hemisphere scalps and complete the transformation under Gatland.

That startling, though isolated, 28-19 win in 1999, proved it can be done – and Welsh fortunes have come on leaps and bounds since then under the canny Kiwi.

Success in the autumn campaign would mark a major milestone on the carefully mapped-out road to the next Rugby World Cup.

It surely cannot be long before nail-bitingly narrow defeats are turned into triumph over the southern hemisphere big boys – and Saturday at the Millennium Stadium is a good place for Wales to begin the process of reversing the trend!

Apart from the All Blacks, they couldn't face a tougher obstacle this weekend. While England may have pointed the way with their 20-13 victory over the out-of-sorts Wallabies at Twickenham on Saturday, the match-hardened Springboks should prove more formidable opposition for a notoriously slow-starting Wales side, who will certainly not want a repeat of the whitewash they suffered in last year's autumn tests.

WALES TEAM: Leigh Halfpenny (Blues), George North (Northampton Saints), Jonathan Davies (Scarlets), Scott Williams (Scarlets), Eli Walker (Ospreys), Rhys Priestland (Scarlets), Mike Phillips (Unattached): Gethin Jenkins (Blues), Richard Hibbard (Ospreys), Adam Jones (Ospreys), Bradley Davies (Blues), Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys), Dan Lydiate (Racing Metro), Sam Warburton (Blues, capt), Toby Faletau.

Replacements: Ken Owens (Scarlets), Paul James (Bath), Scott Andrews (Blues), Luke Charteris (Perpignan), Justin Tipirici (Ospreys), Lloyd Williams (Blues), James Hook (Perpignan), Liam Williams (Scarlets).

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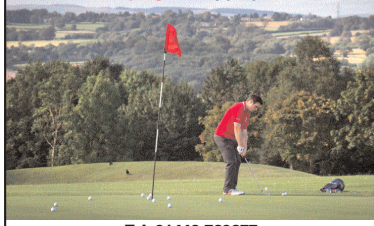
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